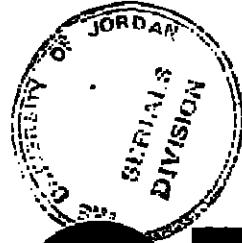


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NO. 7769 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1990/JAMADIUL THANI 20, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Resign, state govs asked

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: In a major move, President R. Venkatarman is understood to have asked the governors of all states to tender their resignations to enable the new Indian government to replace them with people of its choice.

Venkatarman is learnt to have written to the governors in this regard on the advice of Home Minister M. V. Govinda Rao, who met him Sunday. There was no official confirmation but today, at least three governors announced their resignation.

Those who have resigned so far are Kunad Joshi (Andhra Pradesh), P. Venkatasubbiah (Karnataka) and H.A. Barari (Haryana). All of them are learnt to have decided to quit after receiving the communication from the President. In Madras, sources close to Tamil Nadu Governor P.C. Alexander also said that he had received a letter asking him to step down.

Though new governments in Delhi have in the past dismissed state chief ministers, this is the first time that all governors have been asked to quit in one stroke. The government seems to have taken the decision because it felt the incumbents were not in tune with the changed political situation in the country.

It is learnt that the new government had indicated to some of the governors that they should step down but had received no response. Today, Prime Minister V.P. Singh told reporters that some gubernatorial changes were in the offing but did not give out any details.

Soon after the new government took over last month, it had replaced Punjab governor Siddharth Shankar Ray with Nirmal Mukherjee as part of an effort to restore normalcy in that violence-torn state.

In Delhi, lieutenant governor Romesh Bhandari, who had joined the Congress Party after retiring from the foreign service, was transferred to the distant Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Bhandari chose to quit instead of taking up the new assignment, which he felt was "punishment". Jamuna and Kashmir governor K.V. Krishna Rao resigned a few days ago after the centre sent out signals that it wanted to replace him.

As of now, there are no indications about the likely replacements but it is quite unlikely that any of the present incumbents will be reappointed. Many of them have held senior positions in the Congress or the government in recent years.

They include K. Brahmanand Reddy (Maharashtra), Jagannath Palanisami (Bihar), Ram Dulari Sinha (Kerala), Mohammad Usman Arif (Uttar Pradesh), Sukhdev Prasad (Rajasthan) and Khursid Alam Khan (Goa). Alexander and Madhya Pradesh governor Sarla Grewal were senior bureaucrats before being appointed to their present job.

Talks on Babri mosque issue

NEW DELHI, Jan 16, (Kuna): Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh today said that Babri Masjid dispute will be resolved amicably through talks without hurting religious sentiments of any community.

The prime minister was talking to a group of prominent Muslims where he told them the Babri Masjid Action Committee and Hindu community had accepted a proposal to resolve the issue through talks across the table.

The controversy resulted in several communal riots in various parts of the country. The matter is pending before a bench of High Court. Singh said Muslims and Hindus have agreed that a solution should be found without hurting the religious sentiments of the Hindus.

Weather

COLD weather with light to moderate north westerly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 3.07am, 4.16pm

Low water: 9.54am, 10.28pm

Sunrise: 6.43am

Sunset: 5.13pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 3°C 37°F

Falaka: 2°C 36°F

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 15°C 59°F

Almudi: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 93 per cent

Almudi: 77 per cent

Falaka: 70 per cent

Premier vows change; focus on dialogue, form

'Other means will lead to nothing'

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Editor-in-chief, Arab Times

DEMOCRACY never disappeared from Kuwait with the dissolution of the National Assembly, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah announced yesterday.

"The state, headed by HH the Amir is not against popular participation, but it is important to arrive at a formula through which we can overcome the negative

Sheikh Saad said that Kuwait is not a huge country to make us speak with each other through rigid laws or through offices where contacting officials and meeting them becomes very complicated. He added: "Our Amir

aspects of the past experience." Sheikh Saad stressed. He also said the government will introduce several changes in the 1990s.

In an exclusive and candid interview with the Arab Times, Sheikh Saad said that what disappeared was the shape of the Parliament and not the democratic process.

"The constitution remains with all its clauses and the state with its well established traditions, Sheikh Saad emphasised. "We remain a state with officials who listen and consult, who never erect any barriers or hurdles between us and our people. This is what life has taught us in this country."



Sheikh Saad: democracy never disappeared

'United we stand'

GCC monitors changes

MUSCAT, Jan 16, (AP): A three-man ministerial committee met yesterday at the bidding of the leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to monitor the impact of recent world changes, particularly the sweeping transformation of East Europe.

The committee includes Bahrain Information Minister Tariq Al Moayed, Kuwait's Minister of Finance Jassem Al Khorafi and Oman Minister of Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi.

The committee was assigned its task at the December summit conference of GCC heads of state in Oman.

The six countries are seeking collective security and a gradual move toward a common market through the GCC.

Alawi told reporters that the two sessions of talks yesterday focussed on the important changes of the past six months including "basic changes" in East Europe which are bound to have an influence internationally.

Radio Kuwait, for the second day in a row, underlined today the need to abide by democratic concepts, while calling for weighing between ambitions and abilities.

"Democracy means consultation over issues, freedom of expression and participation in decision-making and these concepts are not new to our small Kuwaiti society," said the radio in a comment.

It added that the concern over democracy in Kuwait "entails from us to be wise in weighing between ambitions and abilities and always place the interest of Kuwait above anything else in any dialogue and in any step."

Most of the world, the radio emphasized, is witnessing unusual changes which requires from the Kuwaiti people to "stand in one column behind the leader of our march who always believed in unity of the nation, the objectives and fate before conspiracies seeking to shake the stability of the Arab nation."

"We need, now more than any other time, to bolster our national unity and not weaken it so that democracy of 'shura' would be the ultimate goal and unity is the means for a dignified Kuwait," the commentary stated.

It noted that democracy must be viewed within the frameworks of "spontaneity with internal, regional and international realities."

shares with the people their happiness and sad moments and always is in touch with their demands."

Sheikh Saad affirmed. "The popular participation is within our conscience and it is we who have been emphasising and calling for it."

He added: "When popular participation took a legal shape in the sixties, it emanated from the government's wish to emphasise the old tradition of Kuwaitis in sharing opinions, brotherhood, one family spirit and their strong-bonds of national unity."

"This is the true conscience and desire of the state through its political leadership and reflect the feelings of the Amir, Sheikh Saad added.

"We implemented decisions conscientiously, the Crown Prince said.

Formula

When told that after suspending the parliamentary life in July 1986, it was said that the suspension was temporary and that the parliamentary life was returning, Sheikh Saad said that this was affirmed by the Amir.

"Every citizen who cares about this nation knows this very well," Sheikh Saad said and added, "in spite of the fact that parliament was suspended, it did not abolish the popular participation."

"Our doors were kept wide open for consultation and exchange of views."

However, he said that the experiment of the past was characterised with a number of adverse factors. This was specially clear because of the conditions that prevailed in the Gulf region. The citizens rejected any move that could revive class and ethnic conflicts or any talk on "sectarianism" that comes from here or there.

"This is exactly what the Kuwaiti citizens wanted to avoid," Sheikh Saad said.

"We on our part say yes. There were some shortcomings in our previous parliamentary experience and I don't say democratic shortcomings."

"We wanted to avoid those negative aspects in order to make the popular participation for unity, to create the one family feeling, a participation to show the state's authority and reflect its civilised nature," he said.

He said that arriving at this formula can be brought about through a civilised national dialogue which aims at spreading a relaxed atmosphere between the official body, the executive authority and other authorities.

(Continued on Page 9)



A Soviet Azerbaijani using an inflated tube cross the Aras River into Iran. He was among several Soviet Muslims who crossed the river to visit their relatives in Iran. (Reuter wirephoto)

Civil war!

56 dead; troops sent to Caucasus

Soviet violence worries Tehran

MOSCOW, Jan 16, (Agencies): A Soviet newspaper today described fighting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians as a civil war, and authorities raised the death toll in the ethnic clashes to at least 56.

The Kremlin sent more than 11,000 troops, including regular Soviet army units, to the Caucasus today to halt what was described as civil war between Azerbaijanis and Armenians, state television reported.

The Interior Ministry said bands of people had seized machine-guns, unmarked helicopter, tanks and grenades.

Soviet television news said tonight more than 5,000 Soviet army soldiers and 6,000 internal security troops had been dispatched to the strife-torn area. President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet Presidium proclaimed a state of emergency last night, empowering the government to use units of the Soviet army, navy and KGB to put down the unrest.

The television showed Interior Ministry troops firing into the air as they rode in armoured personnel carriers near the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The official news agency Tass said 2,000 people armed with anti-aircraft guns and other artillery were gathered on hills around Nagorno-Karabakh, which is claimed by Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Attacks

Interior Ministry spokesman Vladimir Yanchenkov reported 56 people had been killed and 156

injured in Azerbaijan since Thursday. Two of the dead were members of law enforcement agencies.

Most of the victims were Armenians, the ministry reported.

Yanchenkov told a briefing in Moscow that authorities had recorded 167 cases of arson and what he called "pogroms."

Foreign Ministry officials told Moscow-based foreign correspondent that they would not be permitted to travel to Azerbaijan or Armenia, making independent confirmation impossible.

The fighting began with ethnically motivated attacks against Armenians in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. Some people reportedly were burned alive.

"We can't bring ourselves to pronounce it aloud, but what is happening now in Karabakh, in northern Azerbaijan, can be termed unambiguously a civil war," correspondent O. Shapovalov wrote in the youth daily Kommunistyaya Pravda.

Other reports compared the fighting to World War II combat.

They described "open armed clashes" in the region, with 300 gunmen fighting in one battle and trenches being dug and other fortifications built to defend villages from attack.

The flareup is the most violent between mainly Muslim Azerbaijanis and mostly Christian Armenians since their decades-old feud over Nagorno-Karabakh erupted in fighting two years ago.

Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region of Azerbaijan 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) southeast of Moscow, is a predominantly Armenian region ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923. Both republics claim it.

Turkey said Tuesday it had tightened security along the country's border with the Soviet Union. It did not elaborate. The Soviet Azerbaijanis are a Turkic-speaking ethnic group with close cultural and historical ties to Turkey.

Gorbachev, seeking to defuse the worst ethnic dispute of his nearly five years in power, declared the state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh and nearby areas of Azerbaijan and the neighbouring republic of Armenia.

The decree empowered local officials to ban demonstrations and strikes, impose curfews, censor the media, confiscate weapons and disband unofficial organisations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters the measures were aimed only at protecting people.

"I would not interpret this step as being at odds with glasnost and democracy," he said. "On the contrary, the step opposes anarchy."

Soviet media reported anarchy in many areas, with combatants taking hostages, and said government troops trying to get to areas of combat were delayed by crowds of people blocking roads.

NICOSIA, Jan 16, (AP): A senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official expressed concern today in a meeting with the Soviet ambassador about continuing ethnic clashes in the Soviet Union, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"We believe" that a peaceful solution of the disputes and regard for the people's demands will avert any violent clashes," Mahmoud Vaezi, deputy foreign minister, was quoted as telling ambassador Vladimir Gudev.

Vaezi told Gudev that Iran was willing to do anything it could to help solve the problem, the agency said.

In a related development, Iran said 30 Soviet Muslim swam across the Araks river into Iran today, defying a state of emergency enforced by Moscow after dozens of people were killed in Azerbaijan in three days of ethnic clashes.

This was the second large crossing of Soviet Muslims reported by Iran, monitored in Nicosia. It reported a similar crossing of 30 Soviet Muslims on Sunday.

DAY BY DAY

THE role of the media is to be in the proper place at the proper time.

It has to be at the place of events, otherwise everything will be done at the desk. The newspaper moves within its limits and capabilities to serve the readers — wherever they are.

Time is the essence and could act against those who do not deal with it in the proper manner. The press is a vital tool, if it can perform its duties in an optimum manner.

Zahed Matar

Bank reaches plea agreement on money-laundering charges

TAMPA, Fla., Jan 16, (Agencies): A major international bank struck a last-minute plea agreement today to avoid going to trial on charges of laundering millions of dollars in drug profits for Colombian drug lords, US prosecutors said.

In return for a reduction in the criminal charges against it, Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) agreed to help the government prosecute the other defendants accused of taking part in a global cocaine-trafficking network.

BCCI, the first major international bank ever

to be indicted on US money-laundering charges, was to have gone on trial on Thursday in Tampa along with seven former bank officers. Among the defendants is Amjad Awan, who once served as a personal banker for deposed Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega.

Prosecutors had said the case was expected to shed light on Noriega's shady financial dealings, but the bank's lawyers had threatened to expose his links to US intelligence agencies if Noriega was brought into the case.

BCCI avoided going to trial by agreeing to provide information on the case, forfeit \$14

million in an escrow account and accept five years of probation.

In return, the prosecutors dropped many of the criminal counts against BCCI and one of its subsidiaries and agreed to seek no further penalties against the bank.

If the bank had been convicted on all the charges, it would have faced up to \$40 million in fines.

Banks recently have become targets in the US fight against drug suppliers. Institutions that launder money, processing tainted funds to

obscure their origins, enable drug dealers and others to benefit from their crimes.

BCCI, a privately-held bank owned by a Middle Eastern consortium with more than 400 offices world-wide, was indicted in October 1988 on charges of laundering more than \$32 million from Colombia's Medellin cartel. The charges followed a two-year undercover investigation by US customs agents.

US district Judge William Hodges read the terms of the plea agreement in court today and told the bank to "fully co-operate" in the prosecution of the other defendants.

Estonians to wait until Oct.

HELSINKI, Jan 16, (AP): Estonian Communist Party chief Vaino Valjas said yesterday that his party would remain a member of the Soviet Communist Party, at least until the party conference next October.

"Really a lot will depend on the October party conference. We are political pragmatists in the sense that everything that is useful we shall use, that which is harmful we shall throw out," Valjas told a press conference.

Cory vows firm action against rebel governor

150 under investigation

MANILA, Jan 16, (Agencies): President Corason Aquino vowed her government would take firm action against a provincial governor linked to the failed December coup, but said due process of law would be observed.

Aquino said the government will issue an order to arrest Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo if he does not appear next week in Manila at a preliminary investigation of rebellion charges against him.

At least 100 military officers and about 50 civilians, including opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Aguinaldo, are under investiga-

tion for alleged involvement in the Dec 1-7 coup attempt.

The failed uprising by mutinous military officers and troops left at least 113 people dead and more than 500 others wounded.

Enrile has denied involvement in the military rebellion, while Aguinaldo, a former lieutenant colonel, has refused to comment on his links with the coup plotters.

Local government Secretary Luis Santos has suspended Aguinaldo and filed a rebellion complaint against him with government prosecutors, but the governor has refused to vacate his post.

Jet loses power, but lands

MANILA, Jan 16, (AP): A Philippine Airlines jumbo jet carrying 257 people lost power for five minutes over the Pacific Ocean but the pilots restarted the engines and landed safely in Honolulu, the company said today.

There were no reports of injuries among the plane's 238 passengers and 19 crew members in yesterday's incident, PAL Vice President for communications Enrique Santos said in a statement. He said flight 104, bound for San Francisco, was heading for Honolulu for a stopover when it lost power.

Santos said the plane, a Boeing 747, was 215 kilometres (135 miles) from Honolulu at an altitude of 37,000 feet (11,200 metres) and about to start its descent yesterday when its four engines went dead.

Ire over shooting of thieves

DUBLIN, Jan 16, (AP): Prime Minister Charles Haughey has called for immediate clarification of the killing of three alleged thieves by plainclothes soldiers in Belfast.

Northern Ireland police said the soldiers were passing by when they saw a robbery in progress on Saturday at a betting shop and shot the masked men without realising the guns they were holding were only replicas.

Relatives of the dead said the soldiers made no attempt to arrest the men and shot without warning, mistaking the thieves for Irish Republican Army guerrillas.

Sinn Fein, the political arm of the outlawed IRA, accused the soldiers of "the cold blooded and savage murder of three young men."

The party denied any of the dead were members of the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting a bloody guerrilla war to drive the British out of the province of Northern Ireland.

During questioning in the British House of Commons yesterday opposition Labour Party legislator Kevin McNamara pressed Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke to confirm witness reports that the soldiers had shot dead two of the robbers as they lay on the ground.

What precisely happened... is being rigorously pursued by the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary), Brooke said, adding that a thorough police inquiry had already begun.

In an interview on RTE radio, Irish Prime Minister Haughey said he thought the problem should be addressed before next month's Anglo-Irish conference, which meets under provisions of the Anglo-Irish accord giving the largely Roman Catholic republic a say in the affairs of the predominantly Protestant province.

A judge has ruled the suspension illegal and stopped Vice Gov. Melvin Vargas from taking over as acting governor, but today, the Supreme Court overturned the judge's ruling.

"We will proceed against Gov. Aguinaldo with firmness, but with due observance of the law," Aquino told reporters.

"If he wants to air his side... he should precisely do so by appearing at the hearing scheduled for that purpose by the department of justice," Aquino said.

In other developments today, Gen. Renato De Villa, armed forces chief of staff, ordered military units around the country to speed up the prosecution of soldiers accused of human rights violations.

De Villa said the directive ordered all field commanders and military judges to explain why delays had occurred.

"If the involved soldiers are proven guilty, they should be meted out the corresponding punishment," De Villa added.

De Villa was reacting to a report from the government's commission on human rights alleging that the military had been slow in handling human rights cases against soldiers. He did not say when the complaint was filed.

Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, the military's civil relations chief, said the judge advocate general's office had received about 222 cases alleging human rights violations by soldiers.

Florendo said 161 of the cases resulted in convictions, 44 are still being tried and 17 ended in acquittals.

At least 2,596 people were fatally injured and 20,000 others were hurt by methyl isocyanate gas that leaked from a factory in Bhopal, India, on Dec. 3, 1984, from a pesticide plant run by Union Carbide's Indian subsidiary.

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Vibhuti Jha, the state's lawyer, said today's petition sought the implementation of the high court order for 2.5 billion rupees (\$147 million) in interim relief. Jha said the relief order was now worth 3.3 billion rupees (about \$198 million) because of accrued interest.

Those arrested were held under the nation's security act, which allows authorities to detain a person for up to three months without giving a reason, the sources said.

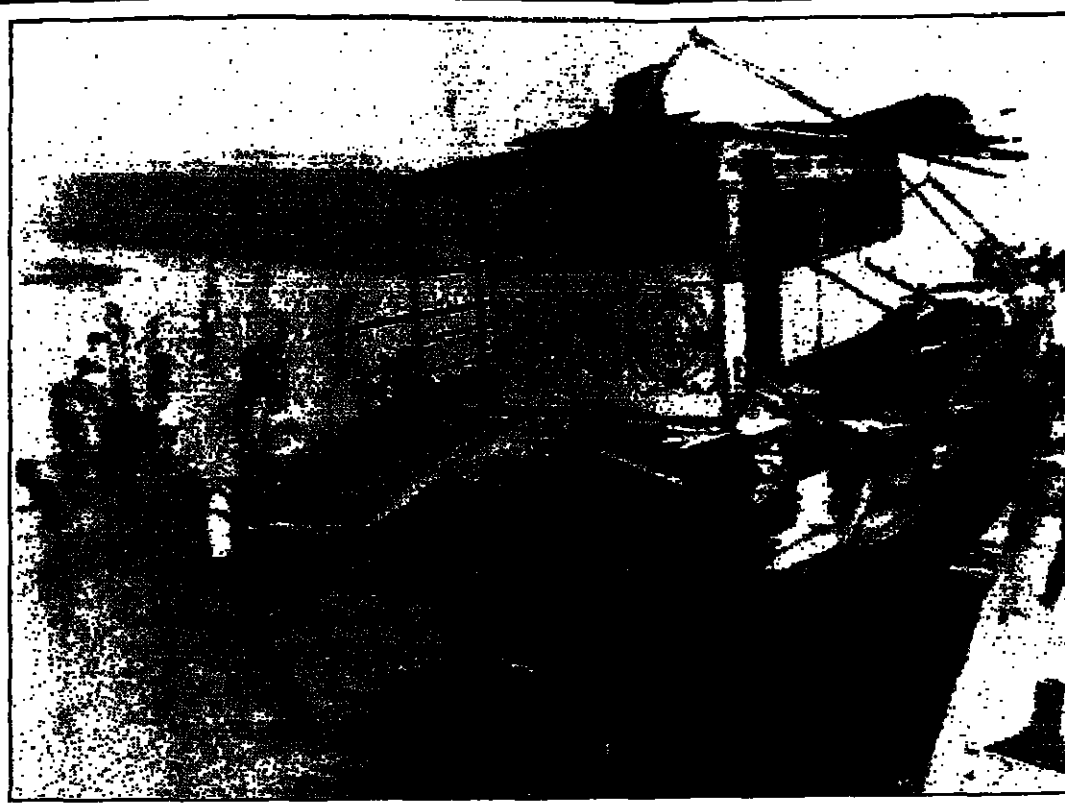
The sources declined to reveal the contents of the party resolution, but said party leaders planned to establish dates for moving ahead with their proposed pro-democracy movement.

Political parties have been banned in Nepal since December 1960.

The draft resolution approved today by a committee was to be presented for approval at a three-day party meeting scheduled to begin on Thursday.

About 700 party delegates had arrived in Kathmandu to attend the conference, although about 20 people were arrested, including three central committee members, mostly in their districts as a way of preventing their participation in the meeting, the dissident sources said.

The Congress Party, considered Nepal's largest opposition group, met at its headquarters was surrounded by a large crowd and helmeted police armed with sticks.



It didn't reach its destination

Ferry crews in Bangladesh, where hundreds perish every year in ferry sinkings, have gone on strike in protest against a new river safety law.

The strike began on Monday night, a day after more than 100 people were killed when a river ferry collided with a cargo vessel.

Police and soldiers were guarding Dhaka's main Sadarghat ferry terminal to prevent clashes between the strikers and thousands of stranded passengers.

Nearly 30,000 ferry captains and crew members went on strike, mainly because, they say, the new law would punish them rather than ferry owners.

"Most ferry accidents in Bangladesh occur due to overloading which we allow under pressure of owners seeking more money," one captain told reporters. "Why should the owner not be held responsible for any mishap?" Picture shows the remains of the wrecked ferry sit on the Shitalakhya river. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bhopal damages not yet

BHOPAL, Jan 16, (AP): Activists asked an Indian court today to execute a 1988 judgement ordering Union Carbide Corp. to pay \$147 million as interim compensation to victims of the 1984 gas disaster.

A petition filed in Bhopal district court by the Poisonous Gas Episode Struggle Front demanded implementation of the April 4, 1988, order issued by the Madhya Pradesh state high court.

That case had originated in the district court at Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh, and the site of a large gas leak on Dec. 3, 1984, from a pesticide plant run by Union Carbide's Indian subsidiary.

At least 2,596 people were fatally injured and 20,000 others were hurt by methyl isocyanate gas that leaked from the factory yards (metres) away from shantytowns housing tens of thousands of people.

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Militants lynch a police officer

Kashmir coalition threatened

SRINAGAR, Jan 16, (UPI): Pro-secessionist Muslim militants today lynched a police officer in the latest in a spate of slayings of law enforcement officials and the group that claimed responsibility warned members of Kashmir's ruling coalition to quit or face the consequences.

Militants organising an increasing violent campaign against Indian control of the disputed Kashmir region also pressed a sabotage drive against government property, torching or bombing a state-owned bank, two schools and a post office, officials said.

Government-run banks in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, closed 30 minutes early at 1:30 pm because of fears prompted by militant threats, officials said.

Police sources said radicals banged a head constable in Barzulla, a suburb of Srinagar, 450 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi. They identified the victim as Abdul Karim Ganai.

However, the underground Hizb-ul-Mujahideen — Kashmiri for the party of holy warriors — claimed responsibility for the lynching and said it had killed Ganai after kidnapping and holding him for two days for interrogation.

During the questioning, the group said, it obtained information from the officer on people involved in efforts to undermine the campaign for secession of the state's Muslim-dominated northern Kashmir region.

It said it had compiled a list of those acting as "Indian agents" and police informants.

Ganai, a fifth police officer slain by the radicals in the past two weeks, was charged with overseeing attacks against Indian troops and police in the region.

No groups took responsibility for the previous police killings. Officials also disclosed that two senior police commanders narrowly escaped unhurt from a grenade attack last night in downtown Srinagar.

In a statement issued to local journalists, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen called on officials of Jammu and Kashmir's ruling coalition to quit their parties "or face the consequences."

The suspected rebel, identified as "Sumit," had pretended to be asleep last night before grabbing the automatic weapon and shooting the soldiers, the official said.

Six of Sri Lanka's universities have re-opened, nearly three years after the government closed them in an attempt to stem rising student support for Sinhalese extremists.

Moratuwa and Peradeniya universities opened Jan 8 and the others followed suit later in the week.

India offers treaty to Lanka

COLOMBO, Jan 16, (Agencies): India has sent proposals to Sri Lanka for a friendship treaty between the two countries. New Delhi's high commissioner in Colombo said today.

Lakshman Mehertra told a group of Indian journalists that he handed over to the Sri Lankan government a "counter-draft" by India on the treaty.

Colombo sent its proposals some months ago.

"After the Sri Lankan side has studied our proposals, both sides will go into consultations on the proposed draft," he said.

Foreign Ministry sources said the treaty would ease tensions between the two countries. The arrival of Indian troops on the island in 1987 sparked widespread protests here.

New Delhi has promised to withdraw the remaining 25,000 troops by the end of March of an original force of 50,000 sent at Colombo's request to quell a Tamil separatist revolt.

The sources said reciprocity, respecting sovereignty and consent of the countries were some features of the proposed treaty.

A police sub-inspector, killed by his army lieutenant lover, allegedly shot her dead and later shot himself but survived with injuries in Colombo this morning, military officials said.

The officials said the victim, Lt. (Ms) Priyanka Kumara's colleagues at the women's army corps found her lying in a pool of blood in a van close to their barracks, in Colombo city, after they heard a hail of gunfire. The 24-year-old lieutenant was rushed to hospital but died on the way, they said.

The suspect, the 30-year-old Lt. Hettitauri, a sub-inspector in the police force, had left her in the van after allegedly shooting her and was found at the police mess, also in the city, and shot himself but survived with wounds, the officials said.

Meanwhile, eight more people were killed due to continuing violence in the Sinhalese dominated south and central Sri Lanka during a 24-hour period ending early today, the military officials said.

Government troops shot dead two Sinhalese rebels of the JVP, or People's Liberation Front, during a search operation in central Kandy district, 90 km from Colombo, while two more were killed when a policeman repulsed an attack on their patrol in Colombo. One rebel was killed during an operation by the troops in northwestern Kurunegala district, 193 km from Colombo, they said.

A suspected Sinhalese rebel broke loose from security force custody, grabbed an automatic weapon and shot dead two soldiers and critically wounded three more in the eastern hill country town of Badulla, a senior military official said.

The suspected rebel, identified as "Sumit," had pretended to be asleep last night before grabbing the automatic weapon and shooting the soldiers, the official said.

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Jailed mom, baby freed

LONDON, Jan 16, (AP) — A teenage mother jailed with her baby in a shoplifting case is to be freed, a court ruled yesterday, ending a legal drama that had Britain in uproar.

Tracey Scott, a 19-year-old unmarried supermarket cashier, was jailed for six months by a judge who said he wanted to deter women from getting pregnant to avoid jail.

Her crime was to let friends walk out of the supermarket with goods unpaid for. She pleaded guilty to 10 charges of theft, and went to prison two weeks ago with her daughter, Alesha, then 10 weeks old.

Coming from northern circuit Judge James Pickles, the punishment was not entirely a surprise. The 64-year-old judge is known nationwide for his quirky sentencing.

Only last June he was in the headlines for jailing a witness who was too frightened to testify against a man accused of beating her up, and the day after putting Ms Scott in prison, he let off two of the supermarket thieves with 50 hours community service apiece.

"By making a lottery of the law, Judge Pickles treats the public with contempt. He must not be allowed to continue," fumed the tabloid Today newspaper.

The Times opined that "Judge Pickles' decision again needs questioning in this case."

Pickles maintained in his verdict that while he didn't suspect Ms Scott of getting pregnant to avoid going to prison, he was afraid other women might get that idea.

"Would it be right," he asked, "to let young women know that one way of possibly or probably avoiding custody would be to deliberately become pregnant between the time they have been detected committing a crime and the time they were being sentenced?"

Lord Lane, the lord chief justice, clearly thought not. Presiding over yesterday's court of appeals hearing, he said Pickles' reasoning had left a "most unfortunate" impression.

The offence was not serious enough to warrant imprisonment, Lane said. A high school dropout from a broken home, Miss Scott had been a good worker at the supermarket in Huddersfield, northern England, and sinned only to win popularity, he said.

Pickles, the judge said, "seems to us to have been concerned more with the public import of what he was doing and saying, rather than the justice of it."

Miss Scott is in Styl Women's Prison in Cheshire, and must be brought to a court hearing in London today where she will be formally released.

Pickles is an unusual judge. He flouts regulations by discussing his actions in the news media.



Endurance test

A Muslim Debus ascetic endures various forms of pain, including a burning cracker on his head and weighted daggers pierced through parts of his

body, at a Jakarta park Jan 15. The Debus are famed for their toleration of pain through religious fasting and devotion. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cholesterol equally bad Artery damage, smoking linked

SAN ANTONIO, Jan 16, (AP) — For the first time, researchers have linked smoking and blood cholesterol levels to hardening of the arteries in men under 35 years old.

Dr. Henry McGill, one of the directors of the study, said yesterday that smoking in young men was a stronger risk for artery damage than he had anticipated.

"In this age group, smoking and cholesterol are about equally bad," he said. "What surprised me was the effect of smoking."

The study is one of the first to look at damage to arteries in young people, McGill said. Hardening of the arteries can lead to blockage of the arteries which, in turn, can cause a heart attack or a stroke.

The findings are based on autopsies of about 300 white men, aged 15 to 34, who died violent deaths or in accidents.

The results support the contention of many cardiologists, including McGill, who favour early steps to prevent heart disease.

"I really believe that the future of prevention of heart disease in middle-aged people has got to start in childhood," he said.

By age 34, one-fourth of the subjects already had what doctors call "raised lesions" in their arteries, representing the beginning of hardening of the arteries.

Some doctors disagree with the suggestion that prevention of heart disease should begin in childhood.

The American Heart Association recommends that healthy children consume less than 300 milligrams of cholesterol per day and moderate their intake of fats.

Low-fat diet for child's safety

SAN ANTONIO, Jan 16, (Agencies) — Preliminary results from a landmark study provide new evidence supporting low-fat diets for children as a way to prevent heart disease later in life, researchers said yesterday.

The American Heart Association recommended over a decade ago that children limit fat intake to no more than 30 per cent of calories. But critics have argued there is no evidence that lowering blood cholesterol levels in children would reduce their risk of heart disease when they grew up.

The researchers said preliminary findings from a study of nearly 400 males ages 15 to 34 found high cholesterol levels were linked to an early sign of atherosclerosis, lesions in the inner walls of the blood vessels. These lesions narrow blood vessels and can interfere with blood flow and thus cause heart attacks.

Doctors have long known that certain risk factors, including high cholesterol, high blood pressure and smoking, are associated with advanced atherosclerosis and heart attack in adults.

The study was presented to the American Heart Association's 17th science writers forum by Dr. Henry McGill Jr., professor of pathology and scientific director of the Southwest Foundation, a San Antonio-based biomedical research centre.

Scientists now believe atherosclerosis "may not be totally preventable (but) its progress can be substantially retarded and (a) heart attack deferred to much later in life," the study said.

"This is the first broad study of children and what is in their blood," said association president Dr. Myron Weisfeldt.

The study, begun in 1985 by US physicians and scientists at a research project called pathobiological determinants of atherosclerosis and youth, selected information from autopsies of people between 15 to 34 years of age dying from violent and accidental causes.

"Analysis of data from the first few hundred cases shows that, by the end of the teenage years, coronary fatty streaks are well established and raised lesions appear in some individuals," the study said.

"By age 20-24 years, raised lesions are more frequent and by age 30-34 years about 25 per cent of white males have raised lesions," the study added. Not enough females have been studied to draw the same conclusions among women, Weisfeldt said.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Rock superstar Bruce Springsteen and his girlfriend, Patti Scialfa, are expecting a baby, USA Today newspaper reported Monday.

USA Today said Columbia records confirmed the pregnancy but did not say when the baby is due or whether the couple will marry. Officials at New York-based Columbia records could not be immediately reached for comment Monday. The telephone was answered with a recording because of the Martin Luther King holiday. Springsteen's manager, Jon Landau, did not immediately return a call seeking comment. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: One man was killed and another wounded on Monday when two men who had an argument on a California freeway pulled out guns and opened fire, police said.

A lotry and a van, each carrying at least two people, pulled over to the side of the Santa Ana freeway after an argument. (Reuter)

LONDON: A woman who stole a newborn baby from a London hospital last week has telephoned to apologise but the baby is still missing, police said on Monday.

Britain has been gripped by the case of baby Alexandra Griffiths, taken from her mother's bedside on Thursday by a woman calling herself Christine who claimed to be a health visitor. (Reuter)

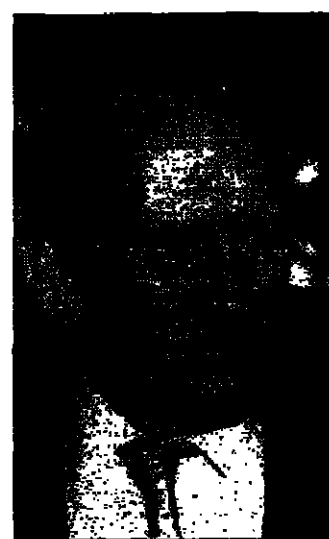
NEW YORK: American Telephone and Telegraph Co. said its phone system experienced major problems nationwide Monday connecting long-distance calls, apparently due to trouble in the computer software that runs its phone-switching centres.

Callers to many areas received a recording saying that all circuits were busy and that calls could not be put through. The problem seriously affected telemarketers, airline reservation centres and other heavy telephone users. (AP)

LONDON: Relics of the dangerous days of airborne polar exploration in the 1920s by the American Lincoln Ellsworth and Norwegian Roald Amundsen will be auctioned in London next month.

Christie's said Monday the items will include photographs, letters and other memorabilia of the two men.

In 1926, they made the world's first transpolar flight, 3,393 miles (5,460 kilometres) non-stop across the North Pole from Spitsbergen, Norway, to Alaska in an airship piloted by Col Umberto Nobile of Italy. (AP)



Jackson dead

Glasgow-born actor Gordon Jackson, 66, star of stage, films and television has died. He was best known for his role as the butler, Hudson, in a TV drama.



Author dies

Lawrence Peter, the Canadian-born author of 'The Peter Principle' died in his sleep in his Los Angeles home, Jan 14, at the age of 70. (Reuter wirephoto)

SAN ANTONIO: The frequency of heart defects among babies of chronic cocaine users is 10 times greater than in the general US population, according to a paper released on Monday by the American Heart Association.

Some of the adverse effects of cocaine on the development in the womb, including birth defects and foetal growth retardation, stem directly from the drug's action on the cardiovascular system, said Dr. Bertha Little, assistant professor of obstetrics/gynaecology at the University of Texas southwestern medical centre in Dallas. (Reuter)

WASHINGTON: A new, four-colour weekly newspaper devoted to news about the business and politics of space began publishing Monday after three months of putting out "preview" editions.

"Space News," edited by Theresa Foley, is a publication of the Times Journal Co. of Springfield, Virginia. The company also publishes the Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times, Federal Times, Defense News and Journal newspapers in suburban areas of Washington, DC. (AP)

LIGONIER, Pennsylvania: A Maryland veterinarian lost three fingers, a thumb and had his left ear ripped off after being attacked by a 200-pound (90-kg) chimpanzee Monday and was in fair condition in a Pittsburgh hospital, authorities said.

State police in Greensburg said Dr. John Kellner, 43, of Adelphi, Maryland, also suffered bites to the face, head, forearm and scalp and lost part of his hand in the early morning biting attack at the home of William Holmberg, 55, of Ligonier, Westmoreland county.

ANCHORAGE: Redoubt volcano fumed quietly Monday, and scientists planned to install new seismic sensors on the peak's flanks, the Alaska Volcano Observatory reported.

Late Sunday, the 10,197-foot (3,100-metre) volcano 115 miles (185 kilometres) southwest of Anchorage was emitting a steam plume to about 14,500 feet (4,420 metres), said geologist C. Dan Miller. The plume contains little or no ash, and seismic activity in and beneath the volcano remained low, he said. (AP)

PERUGIA, Italy: One person was killed and eight injured when about 100 vehicles were involved in a pile-up caused by thick fog and icy asphalt on the Perugia-Bettola highway near this central Italian city Monday, traffic police reported.

A 24-year-old woman from Santo Domingo, identified by police as Maria Antonia Santos, was killed and at least eight people were injured in the chain collision. (AP)

Women after menopause Higher heart risk

Washington, Jan 16, (Kuna) — Older women with the three major risk factors for heart disease — smoking, high cholesterol and high blood pressure — run a one third risk of heart attack than a man, according to a new study.

And women over age 55 who do have heart attacks are twice as likely to die within the first few weeks, said the study released yesterday.

The surprising findings — drawn from new information in the ongoing Framingham heart study — were reported by the American Heart Association in its 1990 "Heart and Stroke Facts."

Ordinarily, women have more natural protection against heart disease because of the female hormone estrogen. After menopause, when the body begins losing estrogen, the risk for women becomes about equal.

But the new study data suggest a woman's chances of developing heart disease appear to rise disproportionately as each risk factor is added.

THURXTON, England: Hilda the hippo, en route to a reunion with her mate Harvey, escaped from her truck on a busy highway Monday, but her brief taste of freedom ended in death.

The trailer truck Hilda was travelling in jackknifed on a busy highway at Thurxton in Hampshire, 65 miles (114 kilometres) west of London, and the three-tonne (2,700 kilogramme) hippopotamus escaped.

She ambled along the highway nibbling at the grass and even managed a quick nap as passing motorists blinked in disbelief. Several swerved to miss hitting her. (AP)

But experts said the stress of the accident and the trauma of being hauled into another trailer after being knocked out with a sedative, proved too much for the 10-year-old hippo, who died shortly after her recapture.

VATICAN CITY: Pope John Paul II cancelled all engagements on Monday due to a bout of influenza and senior Vatican diplomats joined the pontiff on the sick list as the virus swept through the Holy See.

Vatican sources said Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, 76, and the secretary of the council of the public affairs of the church, Archbishop Angelo Sodano, 61, had also taken to their beds with bad attacks of flu.

They said the flu epidemic was so severe that the absence rate among officials in several Vatican departments was as high as 50 per cent. (Reuter)

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King's son and wife Coretta carry a wreath to the grave of the civil rights leader.



Piet Koornhof, the South African ambassador to the US (left), joins hand with Dorothy Height, a black activist and Jesse Jackson. (Reuters wirephotos)

Americans mark King's Day

Israelis, blacks told to heal rift

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (Reuters): Israelis and blacks paid tribute to the ideals of the late Martin Luther King yesterday during a national holiday ceremony where a black US politician urged blacks and Jews to heal their differences.

For the fifth straight year, the Israel embassy played host to blacks and whites who honoured the ideals of the black civil rights leader gunned down in 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad said King's commitment to justice attracted Jews to his quest for equal rights. "His goal of peace and justice has always been ours as well," Arad said. Democratic Party national committee chairman Ron Brown, elected last year as the first black to hold that post, called for unity between the two races but said differences existed.

He did not spell out the points of friction but said neither group should be viewed as a threat to the other.

In recent years, divisions have increased. Some blacks criticised Israel's close military ties

to South Africa and Jews were angered by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson advocating a Palestine state during his Democratic presidential nomination fight and for once calling New York "hymie town."

Brown served as Democratic national convention manager for Jackson and has been a strong supporter of Israel.

"We must recognise that there are honest differences between our communities," said Brown, who will leave on his third trip to Israel. "Differences that can anger and even enrage, but which cannot be allowed to divide us."

He said Jews had not bombed any black churches nor had blacks painted swastikas on synagogues. "We do not threaten one another," he said.

Bells rang out across America in honour of King, the assassinated black activist preacher whose dream of racial and economic equality still inspires his followers.

An estimated 300,000 people filled Atlanta for the annual parade staged in King's honour

in the city where he lies entombed. Monday marked his 61st birthday.

For the first time, the parade was broadcast nationally on cable television and sponsors said it attracted more white participants than in previous years.

Ceremonies were held in scores of cities and bells were sounded from many government buildings in the early afternoon as part of the festival's "let freedom ring" theme.

At an interfaith service at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist church which King pastored until his fatal 1968 shooting, King's widow Coretta was joined by black leaders who called for President George Bush to launch a massive new government initiative to eradicate poverty and joblessness.

While there have been steady political gains by blacks, who make up 12 per cent of the US population, Mrs King and other black figures have used this year's celebration to call for new measures to enhance the economic power of the nation's 30 million blacks and members of other

minority groups.

"While the walls are tumbling down in Berlin and Eastern Europe, in America the walls separating the haves and the have-nots are going up," declared the Rev. Joseph Lowery, who heads the Atlanta-based southern Christian leadership conference which King founded.

"How long, Mr President, for a kinder, gentler nation? We call for a new assault on poverty. How long, Mr President?" asked Lowery, who was given this year's Martin Luther King Jr. peace prize for his career of activism.

A representative of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, Simeke Mwale, told the crowd that King had served as "a great bridge between America and Africa" and added that 500 million Africans and others of African descent are "all part of the dream of Dr Martin Luther King."

Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson said King's legacy was being celebrated during a "troubled time" and charged that many US government officials were ignoring the poor.

Jackson launches drive

Statehood for DC

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (AP): Jesse Jackson, declaring that statehood for the district of Columbia was a "mainstream" issue, launched a new effort yesterday to gain the district's admittance to the union.

"DC statehood is a mainstream issue," Jackson said. "We need to go to work ... mobilising people all over the country. We want democracy and not tyranny."

Jackson said the campaign, which began on the national holiday honouring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, "would give substance to the dream" that King espoused.

Jackson, who moved to the district last year, was joined at the opening of the Rainbow coalition's DC statehood office by local and national politicians, labour leaders and mayoral hopeful Sharon Pratt Dixon.

The campaign will focus on persuading those who voted

for Jackson in the 1988 Democratic presidential primaries to rally behind the statehood effort, the two-time presidential hopeful said.

Roughly 7 million voters backed Jackson in the primaries.

The civil rights leader said he has already met with Senate majority leader George Mitchell and House of Representatives Speaker Thomas S. Foley to push the statehood issue. He said statehood supporters will write to each member of Congress and senator by Feb 1 to determine who supports the idea.

The Republican and Democratic parties will also be asked to help, Jackson expressed confidence that he will be able to meet with President George Bush to discuss the statehood issue.

US spends lesser on education

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (AP): The United States spent less on elementary and secondary education than 13 other industrial countries, according to a report yesterday criticising claims by President George Bush that the US "invests unparalleled resources on schooling."

The report was compiled by the Economic Policy Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan think-tank with major financing by labour unions.

The institute's paper, "Shortchanging Education," said only Australia and Ireland invest less on elementary and secondary education, relative to the size of the economies, than does the United States.

Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Japan, Canada, West Germany, France, the Netherlands, Britain and Italy all invest more, the institute said.

"If the US were to increase spending for primary and secondary school up to the 'average' level found in the other 15 countries, we would need to raise spending by over \$20 billion annually," said the report.

The Education Department said it disagreed with the report's findings, and officials were preparing a detailed response.

M. Edith Russell, author of the report, said the results were based on widely accepted data published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and by the federal government.

The report acknowledged that the United States "spends comparatively more than other countries on higher education," Russell said that "when expenditures on all levels of education — pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary — are calculated, the United States is in the three-way tie for second place among the countries studied."

The education Department estimates total education spending by state, local and federal governments will total \$353 billion this year.

By this measure, Sweden spends a larger share of national income on education than does the United States, and Canada and the Netherlands spend equivalent amounts.

Lawmakers under probe

Senate swamped

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (UPI): Congress opens the new year with a record seven senators and four members of the House of Representatives under committee investigation for alleged wrongdoing, keeping ethics at the forefront of Capitol Hill for a second straight session.

Six investigations involve complaints that lawmakers exercised improper influence on behalf of contributors. Two deal with allegations that lawmakers tried to circumvent limits on outside income, and three involve charges of sexual misconduct.

The investigation of seven senators marks the most inquiries ever to be formally pending before the Senate select committee on ethics at one time, according to the authoritative publication congressional quarterly.

Inquiries

Five of those cases — involving Sens. Alan Cranston, Democrat-Calif., Dennis Deconcini, Democrat-Arizona, John McCain, Republican-Arizona, Donald Riegle, Democrat-Michigan and John Glenn, Democrat-Ohio — stem from their connection to the failed Lincoln savings and loan association of Irvine, California.

The ethics panel opened preliminary inquiries on Dec 21 into allegations that the five lawmakers had improperly intervened with federal banking regulators on behalf of Lincoln when the thrift was in financial trouble.

Lincoln's owner, Arizona real estate executive Charles Keating, and his associates have contributed a total of \$1.4 million to election campaigns and other causes benefiting the five senators.

The savings and loan was seized by the government last April in a bailout that is expected to cost taxpayers as much as \$2.5 billion.

Scandal

Each of the senators has said he did nothing wrong, and three of them — Deconcini, McCain and Riegle — have announced they would return all or part of the money they received from Keating.

At the same time that it took up the "Keating Five" case, the committee opened a preliminary inquiry into charges that Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican-New York, used his position to steer federal housing dollars into the hands of relatives, friends and campaign contributors.

D'Amato's relationship to the scandal-ridden Wedtech Corp., his role in the acquisition of Roosevelt Raceway and his efforts on behalf of brokerage houses also are under review.

The senator's chief accuser is Mark Green, who was D'Amato's Democratic opponent in the 1986 senate race.

The D'Amato and "Keating Five" cases raise questions about the relationship of elected officials to major contributors and the sometimes fuzzy line between legitimate constituent service and excessive political pressure.

Allegations

In a third inquiry begun last spring, the committee is reviewing whether an arrangement under which Senator David Durenberger, Republican-Minnesota, received \$100,000 from a Minneapolis publishing company for making speeches was a legitimate promotion of his books or a means of exceeding senate limits on speaking fees.

In addition, the panel is looking at allegations that Durenberger solicited businesses in Boston to pay for personal trips he took to the city by arranging speaking engagements there.

Regarding the Durenberger investigation, the ethics panel found on Aug 3 that it has reason to believe that a violation of law or senate rules may have occurred.

Similar allegations are at the centre of a case involving Representative Newt Gingrich, Republican-Georgia, the assistant house Republican leader.

The House Ethics Committee — formally known as the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct — hired an outside counsel to evaluate financial arrangements for the promotion of a book Gingrich wrote as well as his use of campaign funds and office staff.

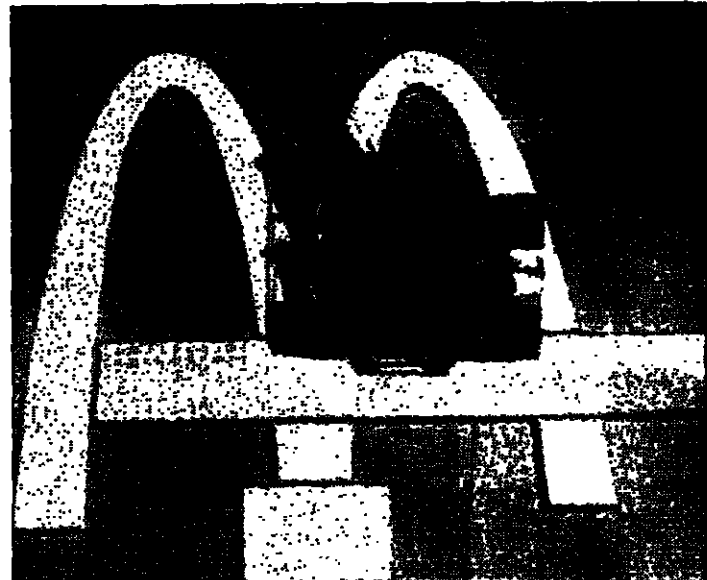
The outside counsel reportedly recommended in October that the ethics committee take no further action, but the panel has yet to make a decision.

Junk bond

Following the counsel's report to the committee, Representative Bill Alexander, Democrat-Arkansas, added new allegations to the original complaint he filed against Gingrich, but it was uncertain how the committee will respond to that move.

Allegations by Gingrich that a book promotion was used to circumvent honoraria limits were at the heart of the ethics investigation that led to the resignation of House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright, Democrat-Texas, in June.

The Wright affair thrust the House Ethics Committee into the public spotlight as never before and overshadowed the house for months until Wright finally stepped down. The third-ranking house Democrat at the time, Representative Tony Coelho, Democrat-California, resigned the same month rather than face what was almost certain to be a lengthy ethics investigation of his \$100,000 "junk bond" investment.



Big Mac in Moscow

Working at night in sub-zero temperature two electricians put the finishing touch to a huge Macdonalds neon sign above the first Soviet restaurant of the chain due to open in Moscow's Gorky Street later this month. (Reuters wirephoto)

USA Today poll

Bush gets an A

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (UPI): Americans are giving President George Bush better grades, but not as good as his wife, according to a poll published yesterday, which also showed continued low ratings for Vice-President Dan Quayle.

Bush received a grade of A or B from 63 per cent of those polled, 12 per cent more than in October in the USA Today poll. Sixty-two per cent feel better about Bush because of the way he handled the Panama crisis, up 12 points from right after the December invasion.

On the Domestic front, 45 per cent think Bush has "taken charge" in Washington instead of reacting to events, up 16 percentage points from April.

However, Bush gets better marks for his foreign policy than he does for his domestic affairs with 74 per cent approving of his dealings with the Soviets and only 85 per cent approving of his handling of the nation's deficit.

First Lady Barbara Bush received an A or B from 76 per cent, up 5 percentage points from October, with 48 per cent of the women and 37 per cent of the men giving her an A.

Quayle rated an A or B from only 23 per cent, down from 24 per cent in April and up from 21 per cent in October.

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Researchers produce genetically engineered cells to repair arteries

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Jan 16, (AP): Researchers have produced genetically engineered cells that grow inside blood vessels and might one day be able to repair the damaged arteries that lead to heart attacks.

The cells, used so far only in animals, take root in arteries and form a new inner lining, Dr Elizabeth Nabel of the University of Michigan said yesterday.

"This is the beginning of a new approach to treatment of cardiovascular disease," Nabel said at the American Heart Association's annual science writers' forum.

Such cells might be made to flower inside the

arteries and disperse a regular supply of insulin for diabetics, or blood-clotting factors for hemophiliacs, she said.

Experiments in the animals have established the feasibility of the approach, although numerous problems must be solved before such cells could be used in humans, she said.

Dr Myron Weisfeld, the president of the American Heart Association, praised Nabel's work and described it as "one of those experiments that captures the imagination."

Nabel and her colleagues have so far shown that endothelial cells, which line the arteries, can

be genetically altered to incorporate genes related to heart disease or other ailments.

They have also shown that such cells, when implanted in a pig's artery, will survive and grow.

The research represents a novel form of gene therapy, the treatment of disease through the introduction of genetically engineered genes into the body.

Other efforts have aimed towards introducing genes into the bone marrow or into the cells that might be used to attack cancer tumours.

The genetically altered endothelial cells have

the important advantage that can be induced to grow in a specific place in the arteries where, for example, hardening of the arteries, or atherosclerosis, is occurring.

Hardening of the arteries leads ultimately to blockage of the arteries. If the blocked arteries supply blood to the heart, a heart attack occurs. If the arteries supply the brain, blockage causes a stroke.

The condition is now often treated with balloon angioplasty, in which a tiny balloon is inflated in partially blocked arteries, opening up a clear channel for the passage of blood.

ANC leaders plan strategy

Reunited after 25 years

LUSAKA, Jan 16, (Reuters): Leaders of the African National Congress (ANC), reunited after more than 25 years in jail and exile, began talks today aimed at defining their strategy for negotiations with the South African government.

Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki, leading a group of prominent ANC members who arrived here yesterday to an emotional welcome from exiled comrades, made a brief public appearance to lay a wreath at a Zambian national monument.

ANC official Stanley Mabizela said they would meet the nationalist movement's policy-making inner cabinet and then attend an official reception hosted by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

The arrival of Sisulu and his grey-haired group of prison veterans has lifted the morale of the 78-year-old

organisation, driven into exile in the early 1960s.

But senior ANC officials said their trip was more than a sentimental reunion between men who last met 27 years ago.

"We don't want to be caught flat-footed," said national executive committee member Steve Tshwete, one of the younger leaders.

His comment reflected nationalist concern that the ANC might be outpaced by fast-moving changes inside South Africa and by President F.W. de Klerk's drive to seize the initiative from anti-apartheid forces.

The ANC committed itself last year to seek a negotiated settlement and says it is ready for talks with de Klerk if he meets certain conditions.

First among these is the release of Nelson Mandela, widely expected in the next few weeks.

Mandela's detention has been the focus of a highly successful world-wide campaign by the ANC but his release could backfire on the organisation if world opinion sees it as the end of South Africa's problems.

The ANC argue that any concessions made by de Klerk have been wrung from him by pressure and that South Africa must not be "let off the hook."

This week's meetings are expected to discuss how to handle Mandela's release and how to respond if de Klerk lifts the ban on the organisation to pave the way for talks.

The movement says it will only drop armed struggle under a negotiated end to hostilities once Pretoria has met its conditions for starting talks.

A three-day ANC national executive committee beginning on Thursday may co-opt Sisulu and others into its ranks. Sisulu, a former party secretary-general, is currently, like Mandela, just an ordinary ANC member taking orders from Lusaka.

However, major leadership changes including the naming of a successor to ailing ANC president Oliver Tambo will not be possible until a full congress is held in June.

Kaunda warned the ANC leaders when he welcomed them yesterday that they would have to do more to secure unity among anti-apartheid forces or risk the South African government exploiting their divisions.

They are expected to visit Tanzania, one of the rebel movement staunchest supporters, an ANC official said today.

Eight former government officials asked President George Bush on Monday to write to jailed South African black leader Nelson Mandela as a step toward nudging both sides in South Africa toward negotiations.

For Bush to contact Mandela "could well contribute to his release and return to political life," the ex-officials said. US officials are not permitted to see Mandela.

Their call for a US role as a broker in the dispute between South Africa's black majority and its white government was issued under the auspices of the Foreign Policy Institute.

Affiliated with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, the institute seeks consensus positions that can be endorsed by former officials representing a range of political philosophies.

Prisoners sentenced to death for politically related crimes have begun a hunger strike to protest new rules restricting visits from family and friends, anti-apartheid activists said yesterday.

The prison service denied the claim, saying no death row inmates at Pretoria central prison were on a hunger strike.



ANC supporters turned out in large numbers in Lusaka to greet Sisulu.



Sisulu (R) and his son give the clenched fist salute shortly after arriving in Lusaka. (Reuters wirephoto)

Amnesty call to halt killings

Liberian massacres

LONDON, Jan 16, (UPI): Liberian troops fighting off rebel invaders have burned down villages and killed dozens of ordinary civilians, the human rights group Amnesty International said today.

Amnesty called for an immediate halt to the killings, which it said were indiscriminate reprisals for an invasion by about 100 rebels Dec 24 last year. The group also called for an immediate judicial inquiry.

Liberian state news agency Lina said last week that the rebel incursion, masterminded by a former official of the West African country, Charles Taylor, had been crushed by two divisions of troops dispatched to the northeastern province of Nimba. Taylor's coup had been averted, it said, and the country had returned to normal.

According to Amnesty, however, one local chief claimed that government troops burned down his village, Butuo, on Dec 29 and killed a village commissioner, David Boley, and his wife.

The chief said troops stripped him and the Boleys naked, forced them to lie down and shot them where they lay, Amnesty reported.

In the capital, Monrovia,

Amnesty said several people had been murdered by unidentified men searching for rebels. A former prisoner of conscience, Robert Phillips, was brutally killed at his home Jan 4, Amnesty said.

Liberia's Minister of Justice Jenkins Scott admitted Jan 10 that there had been numerous reports of harassment by security forces, Amnesty said. The next day, the authorities said 11 people, including two senior army officers, had been arrested on unspecified grounds.

Amnesty expressed concern at reports that the army had ordered the evacuation of the border zone between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire and had said anyone found in that zone would be treated as a rebel.

Captured rebels said last week they had been trained at Libyan commando camps for the invasion. But their claim was not substantiated.

Scott confirmed last week that the army killed civilians while hunting for dissidents who entered the country from neighbouring Ivory Coast in an attempt to overthrow President Samuel K. Doe.

But he said the soldiers were acting in self-defence against people in civilian clothes who attacked them.

Angola denies role in Namibia bombing

WINDHOEK, Jan 16, (UPI): Angola denied yesterday that one of its jetfighters had bombed northern Namibia during operations against US-backed UNITA guerrillas in an incident that drew a strong protest from Namibia's South African-appointed administration.

"This (report) is a lie. We have no fighter planes in that region at the moment," the Portuguese news agency Lusa quoted an Angolan Air Force officer in Luanda saying following reports of Sunday's incident.

Rapid growth in population

US worried

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (UPI): Rapid population growth in developing nations will increase immigration pressures on the United States as young people seek employment and economic opportunity not available at home, a new report said yesterday.

According to the survey, immigration pressures at home and population pressures abroad, the pool of potential migrants in the developing nations — men and women between 15 and 35 — could grow in the next 30 years from 1 billion to 1.9 billion people, a 70 per cent increase.

"Rapid population growth is one factor underlying the social and economic conditions that drive immigration," said Sharon Camp, vice president of the population crisis committee, which issued the report.

"Unless birth rates fall much more rapidly in developing countries over the next decade than they did in the 1980s, these conditions will almost certainly worsen," she said. "If so, it is difficult to imagine immigration policies that would not be defeated by the magnitude of immigration pressures 30 years down the road."

But it said the United States is doing little to decrease future immigration pressures, especially in the family planning area that would reduce developing nations' birth rates.

Family planning aid is just 1.2 per cent of US aid and only 23 per cent of overall foreign aid goes to poor countries for long term social and economic development. The bulk of US foreign aid goes to a handful of countries as military aid.

During the 1980s, legal immigration, based on family unification and job skills criteria averaged about 600,000 a year.

In 1989, for example, a "lottery" for 20,000 open legal slots to the United States generated over 3.2 million applicants from

around the world.

The analysis by the committee indicates that 85 per cent of all current legal and illegal immigrants to the United States now come from developing countries. Of the top 15 countries, all but one — Great Britain — are developing nations with high fertility, low incomes or both.

In addition to Great Britain, the other major sending countries in order of importance are Mexico, the Philippines, Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, India, the Dominican Republic, China, Jamaica, Iran, Cambodia, Taiwan, Haiti and Colombia.

Even using conservative growth estimates, the population of those nations will grow by 1.2 billion people within the next 30 years, the report said.

"Third World population growth is one of the factors that keeps the income gap between rich and poor countries growing and that gap is a main cause of migration," the report said.

Between 1990 and 2010, the report said, the developing world will add more than 700 million to its labour force and if current economic trends continue, many of these people will be unemployed or underemployed.

Close to home, the report noted, the combined labour force of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean will grow by 52 million in the next 30 years.

Further spurring immigration, the report said, is the rapid urbanisation of the developing world. The population of Third World cities, which was 996 million in 1980, is expected to top 2.6 billion by the year 2010.

"Urbanisation in the developing world brings increasing numbers of people into contact with foreign television, magazines and movies, which often depict prosperous lifestyles, political freedoms and economic opportunities in Western industrialised countries," the report said.

Wave of peasant kidnaps in Bogota

BOGOTA, Jan 16, (Agencies): A band of 15 heavily armed men wearing military uniforms rounded up and kidnapped 32 peasant farmers in the latest episode in a wave of kidnappings, police said today.

Police said the unidentified kidnappers herded the farmers into trucks yesterday and sped off from a village in the northern part of Antioquia state. Police launched a massive manhunt throughout the area. A police source said the men may have been members of a right wing group financed by drug traffickers.

The gunmen set fire to a rice warehouse and a tavern, police in the drug cartel city of Medellin said.

Death squads
Gov. Elena Herran de Montoya of Antioquia said police had told her a leftist guerrilla group, the People's Liberation Army, was responsible. In an interview with Caracol radio, she did not say why police thought it was guerrillas or what the motive was.

Until this most recent case, there had been 54 abductions in 45 days by drug traffickers, leftist guerrillas and common criminals, the Department of Administrative Security, Colombia's secret police, said in a news release. The police report did not give a breakdown on what groups were responsible.

The mass kidnapping was in a region where both leftist guerrillas and right wing death squads apparently run by drug traffickers have been active.

The Uraba region where the mass kidnapping took place has been torn by violence as labour unions try to organise banana plantation workers.

Killing
In another incident, a gunman slipped through the security system at Bogota's military hospital yesterday and murdered a retired army sergeant who was investigating military drug connections for the police. The gunman escaped after shooting Jose Leon twice, police said today. Leon, in the hospital for a series of medical tests, had been investigating reported drug bribes to members of a military unit in Pereira in Risaralda state.

The developments came as three former Colombian presidents launched a peace initiative aimed at ending the nation's war with the powerful cocaine cartels, asking them to free the victims of kidnappings and to stop exporting drugs.

The Roman Catholic church and the chiefs of Colombia's three biggest political parties urged drug traffickers to end their terrorism suggesting they could get lenient treatment if they do.

A communique, signed by two cardinals and the political leaders, came as Colombia made preparations for US President George Bush to attend a drug war strategy meeting with Latin leaders Feb 15 in the coastal city of Cartagena.

Drug traffickers would "get less rigorous treatment than if they insist in their criminal ways," they said, urging traffickers to stop their violence and release people who have been kidnapped.

Noriega sold weapons

Ideology of purchasers did not matter

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (AP): Deposed Panamanian ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega was heavily involved in international gunrunning, selling weapons to both the right and the left, according to Senate investigators.

At one point, pilots flying weapons for Noriega to the US-supported Contra rebels in Nicaragua are said by witnesses to have flown on to the United States with a cargo of narcotics.

Noriega, who controlled Panama's security apparatus, was well positioned to engage in "the gray market arms business," according to the 1988 report of the Senate foreign relations committee on narcotics.

late 1970's included the Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua, who were battling to oust that country's leader, Anastasio Somoza. Noriega's associates purchased the weapons in Europe, brought them to Panama and then moved them into neighbouring Costa Rica for shipment to the Sandinistas.

Quoting Noriega, the report said that those buying guns for Noriega included Michael Harari, a retired agent of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

Harari, who travelled to Israel immediately after US troops invaded Panama last month, has been described as one of Noriega's closest advisers, a description he rejects as false.

The Senate panel reported that although Noriega sold many weapons to the Sandinistas, "many more wound up in storage when the Sandinistas war ended in 1979."

Floyd Carlton, a former Noriega pilot, testified that the excess weapons were then "marketed by Panama to the rebels in El Salvador." Carlton said he and his partner, Cesar Rodriguez, flew the weapons to El Salvador in 1980 using Panamanian military aircraft.

On one trip the plane Rodriguez was flying was damaged on takeoff and crashed when it attempted to land in El Salvador. Carlton, flying a second Panamanian plane on the same weapons-delivery mission, said he pulled Rodriguez from the aircraft, put him on his plane and flew to Panama.

When Salvadoran officials discovered the wreckage of the Panamanian Defence Forces plane, the origin of the weapons was obvious, the panel said. Noriega, seeking to expand his arms business, used his contacts with his military intelligence counterparts in Latin America "to find and develop weapons markets which he could supply profitably," the panel said.

In an apparent disregard for the ideology of his customers, one such market became the Contra rebels in Nicaragua battling the now-ruling leftist Sandinistas, the panel said in its report, which was reviewed after Noriega was brought to the United States in early January to face drug charges.

Many of the Panamanian pilots carried mixed cargos of guns and drugs, the committee was told. When they reached Costa Rica, they unloaded the weapons and flew onto the United States with the narcotics, a witness, Werner Lotz, told the panel.

On a low table in the office of Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, the commander of Panama's new public force, lies a set of heavy prisoner's leg chains.

The chains, used by Noriega on soldiers who rebelled against him, are a reminder of the repressive regime he left behind and the commitment by new officers not to repeat the same mistakes.

"These are a reminder of what was bad," Herrera said in an interview with Reuters. "Noriega ordered 100 sets of these chains made to be put on exiles (rebel officers)."

"One set had my name on it," he added. Herrera, himself exiled for opposing Noriega, returned to Panama after US forces invaded on Dec 20 to oust Noriega and install the government of President Guillermo Endara.

Herrera, before being exiled in 1988, had served as Panamanian ambassador to Venezuela and to Israel.

Peru defence minister quits

LIMA, Peru, Jan 16, (AP): The defence minister offered his resignation over the assassination last week of his predecessor, the most prominent victim in Peru's 10-year-old guerrilla war, newspapers reported today.

The government did not confirm the report, but the official newspaper El Peruano said President Alan Garcia met Sunday with the Defence Minister Gen. Julio Velazquez, who left the government palace without talking to reporters.

Government sources said privately that Garcia refused to accept Velazquez's resignation.

The former Defence Minister, Enrique Lopez Albujar, died Jan 9 when at least four leftist terrorists shot him with submachine guns and pistols as he arrived alone in his car at the office where he worked following his retirement last year from the armed forces.

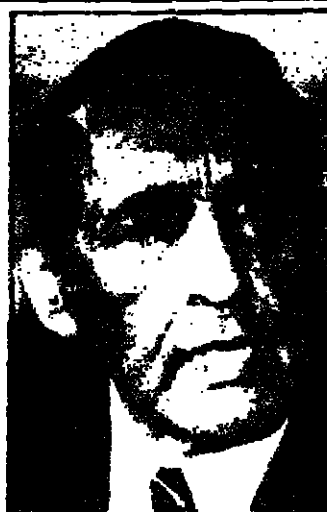
He was alone because his driver and a bodyguard arrived late to work that day.

headed by Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

Even before the death of Gen. Omar Torrijos then Panama's ruling figure, in a mysterious 1981 plane crash, Noriega had the authority to issue certificates to legitimise the shipment of foreign arms to Panama.

"Once in Panama, Noriega would sell the weapons to whomever bid the most for them," the committee said, citing the testimony of Jose Blandon, a former Panamanian intelligence official and one-time Noriega adviser.

Blandon told the sub-committee that Noriega's earliest clients in the



Duarte: sinking

Duarte on the edge of coma

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 16, (UPI): Former Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte was in "very critical" condition and nearly comatose yesterday, but raised relatives' spirits by talking briefly with a doctor, his chief physician said.

A family member said the cancer-stricken Duarte had been read his last rites yesterday, but his principal doctor, Jose Luis Saca, downplayed the importance of the religious ritual, saying it had been done before.

"It's not the first time," he told United Press International by telephone.

Saca voiced optimism late yesterday about the former president's immediate prospects, saying Duarte had slept most of the day and appeared on the edge of a coma but later had exchanged a few words with a doctor.

"(Today) we expect to have better news," Luis Saca said.

One of Duarte's daughters, Maria Elena, said her father was alert and that his illness had deepened his religious faith.

"He's very Catholic and he receives communion and prays with his priest every day," she said.

Doctors nonetheless listed Duarte's condition as "very critical" saying terminal cancers attacking his stomach and liver were advancing steadily and that his outlook was complicated by respiratory illness.

Airliner slams into Costa Rican mountain

23 die in plane crash



Costa Rican authorities pore over maps of the mountain area where a Sansa plane crashed. (Reuters wirephoto)

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Jan 16, (AP): A twin-engine commuter airplane carrying 23 people that crashed into a mountainside in a driving rain has killed all on board, officials said.

A rescue patrol reached the crash site last night, about 12 hours after the accident, and recovered all 23 bodies, said Juan Felix Barrantes, head of the civil guard.

Initial reports said 21 people were aboard the propeller-driven plane belonging to a subsidiary of Laca, Costa Rica's national airline, including a Costa Rican crew of three.

Carlos Jimenez, a spokesman for the Public Security Ministry, said the plane slammed into a 1,500-foot (450-metre) Pico Blanco mountain, about 10 miles (16 kilometres) southwest of the capital's Juan Santamaría airport.

Jimenez said 10 of the passengers were foreigners but could not provide any names. Officials at the Canadian Embassy said the Security Ministry had informed them seven or eight of the passengers were thought to be Canadian.

There were unconfirmed reports the passengers also included Swiss, United States and Panamanian citizens.

Officials said the bodies would be brought down from the low mountain today.

Ortega accuses rival of playing dirty

MANAGUA, Jan 16, (AP): President Daniel Ortega is accusing the opposition coalition of withdrawing from the campaign for the Feb 25 elections in order to discredit the balloting and prompt a US military intervention.

"They're not playing fair, because they're working so as to create in Nicaragua a situation similar to the Panama ... and drag the United States into it," he said yesterday in a voice hoarse from a series of campaign appearances.

The National Opposition Union, or UNO, denied the allegation and a UN election observer said he had been assured the coalition was in the race to stay.

Former US attorney general Elliott Richardson, who is here representing UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, acknowledged Ortega's concerns but said UNO officials told him they were not pulling out.

Richardson also said there had been "significant improvement" in the election process, but that more had to be done to insure a free and fair election.

Campaign violence has declined and the opposition had more access to government-controlled media, he told a news conference, but the UN mission will continue to monitor complaints about the intimidation.

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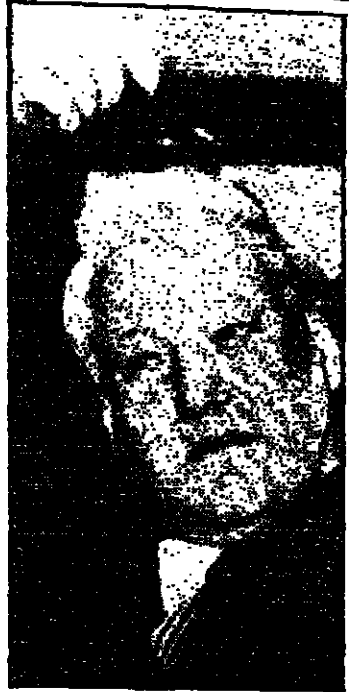
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Yeltsin: warning

USSR might crumble

TOKYO, Jan 16, (Reuters): The Soviet Union could destroy itself within three months unless major changes are made there now, Soviet reformist politician Boris Yeltsin said today.

"The Soviet Union is faced with a crisis and could destroy itself within as little as three months," said the outspoken and controversial Yeltsin, who arrived in Tokyo for an 11-day visit on Saturday.

"We urgently need fundamental and radical reforms," he said. He accused Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, facing a near civil war in the south of his country and a revolt against Moscow's domination in other areas, of making too many compromises in his perestroika reform process.

None of its main objectives had been achieved, Yeltsin said, listing them as political and economic reforms, introducing a federal system of government, solving ethnic problems and raising living standards.

"Confidence in both Gorbachev and perestroika is on the decline among Soviet people," the member of Parliament told a news conference.

He called for legal reforms to allow Soviet republics to break away from Moscow and also urged that a stock market should be set up and private enterprise expanded.

But Yeltsin said he was still prepared to work with Gorbachev to introduce drastic measures to save perestroika.

He said it was not necessary for the Soviet Union to go the way of Romania where dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed after a violent revolt last month.

"I am an optimist, so I like to believe that we can be saved," the reformist said.

The main sponsors of Yeltsin's trip include the Tokyo Broadcasting System, Mainichi Shimbun newspaper and the Foreign Ministry-affiliated Japan Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy.

Gorby may visit Japan

TOKYO, Jan 16, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will try to visit Japan next spring, former Japanese foreign minister Shintaro Abe said yesterday.

Abe, who met Gorbachev in Moscow yesterday, said in a live NHK television broadcast from the Soviet Union: "I asked Gorbachev to definitely come to Japan next year, and told him that when the cherry blossoms come out Japan is the most beautiful."

Cherry trees usually blossom in Japan in early April.

Gorbachev responded saying that if there are no unexpected hindrances he would abide by my wishes," Abe said.

Abe said he brought up the problem of the northern territories in his meeting with the Soviet leader.

The dispute over four small Soviet-occupied Kurile Islands just northeast of Japan's large island of Hokkaido has been a thorn in Japan-Soviet relations since World War Two.

Japan claims the islands as its own and refuses to normalise relations with the Soviet Union until the islands are returned.

Gorbachev said the Soviet Union and Japan as neighbouring countries must solve this problem with wisdom, Abe quoted him as saying.

Abe arrived on Saturday in Moscow, heading a delegation of members from his ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Chants of protests greet Hurd in HK

Speedy reform promised; committed to forced repatriation

HONG KONG, Jan 16, (Reuters): Thousands of Vietnamese boat people facing forced repatriation from a crowded Hong Kong detention centre greeted visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd with chants of protest today.

Hurd, who pushed the controversial repatriation policy through the British Parliament, brushed past the demonstrators barely glancing at their banners.

Inmates wearing white head bands, the Vietnamese colour of mourning, marched round the camp shouting "Give us freedom," and "we'd

rather die than go back to a communist country" throughout his visit to the camp on isolated Hei Ling Chau island, a former leper colony.

Toddlers waved banners saying "Help Vietnamese children" while adults sported placards declaring: "No suppressing our peaceful demonstration" and "we can't believe in Hanoi authorities' promise."

"These were well organised demonstrations. I think they were for your benefit rather than mine," Hurd told reporters after his tour of the camp.

Hurd, in the British colony on a four-day visit, expressed his commitment to the policy of forcible repatriation.

"We wish to clear the camps as soon as one can and prevent the camps filling and re-filling," he said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) wants forced repatriation to be put on hold to give its voluntary return programme a chance to work.

Under UN auspices, 104 Vietnamese returned voluntarily to Hanoi today, the tenth group to go back since the programme started in March.

Their departure brings the number who have chosen to return to 1,093.

Hurd stressed today that London would not let Beijing's opposition prevent greater democracy for Hong Kong ahead of 1997, when China resumes sovereignty over the colony.

"Hong Kong must start next year on the upward path to democracy with directly elected constituencies," Hurd said.

"It should start at a considerably higher level than the (British government) previously indicated," he said.

He said the best solution would be an arrangement with China for political reforms that would continue after 1997 but added: "If that is not attainable we will have to make our own decisions, and justify them to the People's Republic of China."

"That is a decision for us and the government of Hong Kong to take."

Beijing has made it clear it does not want major political reforms in Hong Kong before the territory becomes a special administrative region of China in 1997.

Hurd chatted briefly with inmate Huang Quang Minh, 38, asking him why he had left Vietnam and accepted letters of protest from inmates. Heavy security insulated him from the noisy but peaceful protesters and there were no untoward incidents.

"The main problem is there are too many people here in too small a space," Hurd said.

Britain and Hong Kong provoked widespread international criticism last month when 51 Vietnamese boat people became the first group to be sent back home against their will.

The human-rights group Amnesty International said yesterday that some of the 51 had been brutally treated by police and camp guards some weeks earlier. The Hong Kong government described Amnesty's allegations as "unfounded."

Camp inmate Tran Toan Duc, 28, who said he was a nuclear physicist who fled Hanoi because he faced persecution for criticising the government, insisted that if he were sent back he would simply return to Hong Kong as soon as he could.

"I have a bad future in Hanoi," he shouted through the wire barriers at reporters.

Hong Kong, which holds nearly 56,000 Vietnamese boat people, regards the vast majority as illegal immigrants rather than refugees fleeing persecution.

Refugee workers say only a small percentage can hope to establish genuine refugee status during a screening process that Amnesty said was fatally flawed.

"We've sent back 51 and I don't think Amnesty is suggesting any of those who have been sent back are refugees," Hurd said.

Amnesty cited the example of a young Christian who, despite facing jail in Vietnam for crimes against the state, failed to win refugee status until the UNHCR intervened.

The Hong Kong government said the UNHCR could be relied on to provide a safety net for borderline cases.



Vietnamese boat people board a plane at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport to return to Hanoi. (Reuters wirephoto)



Hurd looks away from Huang Quang Minh, a 38-year-old refugee wearing a 'No forced repatriation' headband in Hei Ling Chau detention centre in Hong Kong. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese minister arrives in Japan

Beijing hints at purges

TOKYO, Jan 16, (AP): State Planning Commission Minister Zou Jiahua arrived in Japan today for a 10-day stay, the first senior Chinese official to visit Japan since China's bloody crackdown on political dissent last June.

Zou, whose commission is charged with China's economic planning, arrived at Osaka airport in western Japan and is to spend 10 days in Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the Japan Association for the Promotion of International Trade.

Japan suspended high-level contacts and loan negotiations with China after the bloody crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in which hundreds and possibly thousands of Beijing residents were killed by the military.

Japanese diplomatic sources in Beijing had said they believed stalled contacts "will start moving again" after Premier Li Peng's announcement last week that China was ending seven months of martial law in Beijing.

However, Japan's Foreign Ministry has said it wants to see further efforts by China before it revives its economic aid programme. Tokyo has not lifted its sanctions on high-level exchanges.

Zou was invited to Japan before the political turmoil of last spring.

Ministry spokesman Taizo

Watanabe said last week Japan will explain its political position to Zou, who is to meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama during his visit.

Japan has pledged to provide China with \$10 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) in development loans for the 1991-95 period, but froze negotiations on the loans after June. Kaifu has said he hopes agreement on the loans can be reached by April as originally scheduled.

China said today that the Communist Party must be led by people loyal to Marxism and it hinted broadly at new purges and sackings.

The official People's Daily, in a front-page commentary entitled "the leadership must be loyal to Marxism," said that the struggle against western ideas would continue.

"Those who aren't firm in their political stance, whose political calibre isn't high enough or who are just opportunists pretending to be loyal should not be given responsible posts," the newspaper said.

"If such people are in office, we must resolutely remove them," it said.

The newspaper went on to say that any communists who opposed the party must be kicked out. Problems within the party would eventually destabilise the leadership and that had to be avoided, it said.

'If I were not a queen'

COPENHAGEN, Jan 16, (AP): Queen Margrethe II, planning her 50th birthday party, said yesterday she would have become an archaeologist if she were not Denmark's monarch.

Inviting the foreign press corps into her palace for the first time in nearly three decades on the throne, Margrethe also did not rule out the possibility of her two sons, Crown Prince Frederik, 22, and Prince Joachim, 21, marrying commoners.

"What I hope for my boys is that whoever they marry, that their wives will make them happy, both in their lives and their jobs," said the popular queen.

Margrethe, a descendant of Europe's oldest reigning royal house, married the French diplomat Henri-Marie-Jean Andre, Count de Laborde de Monpezat, now called Prince Consort Henrik, in 1967.

Margrethe met reporters at her Amalienborg palace residence to discuss preparations for her birthday on April 16. She ascended the throne at age 31 following the death of her father, King Frederik IX in 1972.

She has won professional recognition as an illustrator, designer, painter and book translator. But she said she would have liked to continue her studies as an archaeologist.

"I would have gone through the archaeology if it weren't for this job," she said. She was made Royal Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1972.

The queen, who is fluent in English and French, fielded questions from 85 reporters from 21 nations and met separately with representatives of 20 television and radio stations.

"I hope you will understand that questions touching on the political side of life are not my concern, because in a constitutional monarchy like Denmark, other people look after the political side of life," she said.

Returnees in a dilemma

Bodies drift ashore

GIENG DAN VILLAGE, Vietnam, Jan 16, (AP): Dinh Hong Qui is finding it no easy task to begin life anew in impoverished northern Vietnam after voluntarily returning home from the squalid camps of Hong Kong.

"At present I am doing nothing. I haven't any job and I have to rely on my parents," the 28-year-old man said in a recent interview in coastal Quang Ninh province. "For the time being it is very difficult."

Qui and his wife are among nearly 1,000 people who have voluntarily returned from the British colony after finding their dreams for a new life abroad dashed by Hong Kong's policy of considering Vietnamese asylum-seekers who arrive by boat illegal immigrants.

About 44,000 boat people who have sailed into Hong Kong since June 1988 face repatriation against their will unless they can prove they fled political persecution or return voluntarily under a programme sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Charles-Henry Bazoché, head of the UN agency's mission in Hanoi, acknowledged the economic difficulties faced by the returnees but believes that market-oriented economic reforms under way in communist Vietnam will lead to rapid improvement.

They have made a reasoned, mature decision," Bazoché said of the voluntary returnees. "They know that Hong Kong is a dead end. The (economic) situation in Vietnam is evolving very fast. I do believe the next four years will see many more changes," he said. "I am deeply convinced that life in Vietnam is better than in a camp anywhere."

Bazoché noted the number of boat people seeking voluntary repatriation from Hong Kong has been on the rise, with about 2,000 applications pending.

More than 230 of the boat people who have voluntarily returned are from Quang Ninh, a northern province of hauntingly beautiful

BANGKOK, Jan 16, (Agencies): Thai police today began a major investigation into the murder of 14 young Vietnamese women and a boy whose bodies have been washed up on the shores of southern Thailand in the past three days.

"On Sunday and yesterday villagers reported finding a total of 11 bodies floating near the shore," said Lt. Col. Ratanak Kanjanachote, police chief of Thai Sala district, 380 miles (610 km) south of Bangkok.

Today three more bodies, one woman and two boys, were found in the same area and apparently from the same incident, a police official said.

Police said nylon rope was found twisted around the necks of many of the women, some of whom were naked and others wearing only trousers.

They said they believed the victims might have been dragged behind a boat before being cut loose into the sea.

It was impossible to tell whether the women had been raped because the bodies had started to decompose, said a police officer in Nakorn Si Thammarat province where the bodies came ashore.

"We know they were Vietnamese because we found Vietnamese currency," he said.

Police have ordered a major investigation into the attack, one of the most brutal by those preying on the flow of Vietnamese boat people still fleeing their homeland in rickety crafts.

Police said the attack took place in international waters and that the 14 could have been murdered by Thai pirates, Vietnamese soldiers or nationals of a third country.

In northeastern Malaysia a total of 23 bodies of Vietnamese boat people were washed ashore over the weekend.

Police said they had been heading for an island refuge when their boat capsized in rough weather.

In December, 15 dead Vietnamese were found in the same part of Malaysia.

coastline where Sampans sail between islands of dramatic rock formations.

Qui and his wife last spring left behind jobs as a factory welder and tourist official with a total monthly salary of about \$16 and sold their house to help pay for seats on a boat to Hong Kong, which cost \$300 in gold.

NEWS IN BRIEF

General attempts suicide: The commander of the higher war college in Salomina, Greece, leaped off the roof of a seven-story building, narrowly avoided electrocution, and broke a leg, an eyewitness reported Tuesday.

Li Gen Kyriakos Dimitriadis, 56, locked the door leading to the roof of the building in central Salomina and sat on the edge for 45 minutes before jumping on Monday night, said witness Anna Economou.

She told the Associated Press that high-powered electricity cables broke Dimitriadis' fall. The cables snapped, plunging the city centre in darkness. (AP)

Plane crash, 3 hurt: A Skywest commuter plane with 16 people on board crashed in the mountains while trying to land during a snowstorm Monday morning, injuring three people, officials said in Elko, Nevada, but most walked away.

Federal Aviation Administration officials said the plane, flight 5855, was on a hop from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Elko when it went down at about 9:30 am (1730 GMT) west of the airport in this northeastern Nevada town of 8,800.

Most of the passengers escaped generally unharmed although three were reported with more serious injuries, authorities said. All the people aboard were rescued from the site within a few hours of the accident. (AP)

Brazilian shoots 5, kills self: A young bankworker with a passion for Nazism shot dead five members of his family including a baby brother and then killed himself, police said on Tuesday in Brazil.

Luís Carlos Casagrande, 21, killed his brothers Luciano, two, and Eusebio, eight, and his sister Adriana, 10. He also shot two grandparents while they were asleep on Saturday in the south Brazilian town of Gramado. (Reuters)

Airport closed for 2 hours: The first snowfall of the season forced a two-hour closure of Tokyo's international airport Tuesday and delayed commuter and intercity trains, inconveniencing tens of thousands of commuters.



A 16-year-old guerrilla with the KPNLF forces in north-western Cambodia stands guard duty in Thma Pouk. (Reuters wirephoto)

The meteorological agency eased its snow warning Tuesday evening while reporting that snowfalls varied from 8 to 12 centimetres (3.1 to 4.7 inches) in the capital region, which sometimes gets through winter without enough snow to stick on the ground.

Emergency denied Battambang normal

BANGKOK, Jan 16, (Reuters): The Cambodian government in Phnom Penh today denied guerrilla claims that emergency security measures had been declared in Battambang, the country's second biggest city, after recent attacks.

The official SPK news agency said it had been authorised to reject reports that Battambang in northwestern Cambodia had been placed under a state of emergency.

Reuters and other news agencies reported a statement by the Khmer Rouge on Saturday that the Cambodian army imposed an overnight curfew and restricted travel in Battambang province.

"Life in Battambang is still normal," SPK said. Its comments were broadcast by Hanoi Radio, monitored in Bangkok.

The agency also dismissed guerrilla claims that Khmer Rouge forces were bearing down on Angkor Wat, a complex of ancient temples in northern Cambodia that are regarded as the national symbol.

Segregation in Brunei

BANDAR SERI, Begawan, Brunei, Jan 16, (Reuters): The wealthy Islamic state of Brunei will have separate schools for boys and girls, officials said today.

The officials quoted Education Minister Pehin Abdul Aziz as saying the segregation was in line with Islam, the official religion of the oil sultanate on the northeastern coast of Borneo island.

Where different schools cannot be provided, the boys and girls will sit in separate sections in class, officials said, adding that Islamic monarchy would be a compulsory subject.

Sihanouk rejects reported Hun Sen proposal to divide and rule

BEIJING, Jan 16, (AP): Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk rejected today a reported proposal by government leader Hun Sen to divide the country into rebel- and government-run sectors until elections can be held.

Hun Sen heads the Vietnamese-installed government that a rebel coalition comprising Sihanouk's forces and two other groups is trying to oust.

The resistance has claimed significant victories over Hun Sen's forces since Vietnam reportedly completed the withdrawal of its military forces from Cambodia last fall.

Sihanouk, in a statement from his exile home in Beijing, said Hun Sen "knows that in the weeks and months to come he will lose more and more territory to the resistance."

The resistance leader said he had always been against the partitioning of such countries as Korea, Germany and Vietnam. He said that if Cambodia was divided, Vietnam would gain complete control over Hun Sen's section within two years.

Hun Sen reportedly proposed that Sihanouk's three-party group and his side administer their own zones — Hun Sen's side still controls most of the

country — during a transitional period before elections can be held.

Sihanouk said he supported Vietnam's drive for reunification in the 1960s, but that now, Vietnam and "traitors" in Phnom Penh were trying to divide Cambodia.

He has called for his three-party group — including the Khmer Rouge, the strongest military faction in the resistance — to join the government in forming a coalition leadership until elections.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union,

China, France and Britain — today continued talks in Paris on Cambodia. They reportedly were discussing an Australian plan that would have the United Nations take over administrative and military control of the country until elections.

One of the main obstacles is what role, if any, the Khmer Rouge would play. The communist group held power in Cambodia from 1975 until Vietnam invaded in 1978 and set up a new government.

During the Khmer Rouge rule, hundreds of thousands of Cambodia's eight million people died from executions, famine and civil unrest.

Ceausescu loyalists face genocide charge

Most of the ex-officials can hardly write, says prosecutor-general

BUCHAREST, Jan 16, (AP): High-ranking loyalists of overthrown dictator Nicolae Ceausescu going on trial this week will face charges from complicity to commit genocide to undermining the economy.

Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu announced the charges yesterday, but said depositions for the trial have been hindered because "many of the ex-officials can hardly write, even though a good part of them held a doctorate in science."

Robu's statement on national television was carried by Rompres, the official Romanian press agency.

Nicu Ceausescu, the most notorious of the executed dictator's children, will be among those tried this week, said Robu.

As the local communist party chief in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, Nicu purportedly ordered members of the Securitate, his father's special police, to open fire on demonstrators during the revolution that toppled Ceausescu last month.

Nicu's sister Zoia-Elena and older brother Valentin have also been arrested and Romania television said Valentin also was to be tried this week.

In addition to Nicu and Valentin,

who was a member of the Romanian Communist Party's policy-setting Central Committee, trials are also scheduled for former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu, former Communist Party Secretary Emil Bobu, former director of the Sociopolitical Academy Dimitru Popescu and Maria Neagoe, who directed the dictator's personal security.

The ruling National Salvation Front Council has not disclosed when or where the trials will take place. But Rompres said trials for members of the Securitate would be held in Timisoara, beginning Friday.

Police in Timisoara, where the Securitate's killing of demonstrators ignited the revolution, initially said those trials were to begin on Monday. No reason was given for the delay.

The genocide charge refers to those who died during Ceausescu's 24-year rule as well as Romanians killed by the Securitate forces during the revolution.

The charge of undermining the economy refers to Ceausescu's squeezing of domestic goods in order to pay off Romania's foreign debt of more than \$10 billion between 1982 and 1989.

The government also announced an amnesty for crimes committed before

the revolution, but excluded former Ceausescu functionaries, murderers, rapists and "terrorists," the term applied to Securitate members.

The governing council also has announced it will have the final say on when to schedule elections, after consulting opposition parties.

Opposition groups have called for a delay in the planned April elections to give them time to campaign, but council spokesman Dragoș Munteanu told a news conference that the vote for a new parliament should take place as soon as possible, Rompres reported.

Munteanu told the news conference

that the hasty ban on the Communist Party announced Friday, and then rescinded Saturday, showed the need for quick elections.

More than 100 Romanians demonstrated outside the US embassy to demand immigration visas because of fear of government repression despite the overthrow of Ceausescu.

Romania's dwindling community of ethnic Germans was preparing a special welcome for West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Spur to chems ban talks sought

GENEVA, Jan 16, (Reuters): Diplomats working to ban chemical weapons began their 1990 negotiations today trying to ensure that the political upheavals in Eastern Europe do not destroy the momentum of their talks.

Spurred on by the use of poison gas in the Iran-Iraq war which ended in 1988, the talks seek to ban the manufacture and possession of such weapons. Their use is already forbidden by a 1925 Geneva protocol.

The top government officials from 149 nations began 1989 in Paris with a pledge to redouble their efforts towards a ban and a meeting in Canberra in September gave the talks further impetus.

But some diplomats were worried that the talks could lose momentum as attention is diverted by the changes in Eastern Europe and by negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on cuts in nuclear capability and pan-European talks on reductions in conventional forces.

Poison gas killed 100,000 people and caused a total of 1.3 million casualties in World War One and was also used by Italy against Abyssinia in 1935 and by Japan against China in 1938.

The most important problem facing the UN-sponsored ad hoc committee on chemical weapons is agreeing on language covering challenge inspections anywhere and at any time to make sure no one cheats.

Negotiators said the concept was so intrusive — even more so than the challenge inspections in the US-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty — that it was taking time for delegations to accept it.

It was also taking time for the committee, part of the 40-nation conference on disarmament, to draw the fine line between adequate verification and the protection of industrial and military secrets unrelated to chemical weapons.

The negotiators said even the United States, which had insisted on challenge inspections in the mid-1980s when it was unthinkable the Moscow would agree, was re-examining its position on the issue.

But diplomats said the concept if not the details of challenge inspections appeared by now to have won acceptance from most delegations, even from many developing countries reluctant to have foreigners snooping around.

The committee began 17 days of talks today during which delegates hope to include in the overall draft convention a protocol on some of the details of how inspections should be conducted, following a US-Soviet agreement on the subject last year.

Top military officers of the United States, the Soviet Union and some 30 other nations sat down today to discuss their countries' defence doctrines for the first time.

Bulgaria opposition threatens walkout

UDF demands newspaper, HQ building

SOFIA, Jan 16, (Reuters): Bulgaria's opposition, flexing its muscles after the end of the communist monopoly on power, threatened to walk out of talks with the government today if two demands were not met.

The opposition had to have its own newspaper and a headquarters building, Plamen Darachev, a leading member of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) opposition umbrella group, told reporters.

"We decided categorically that we will not participate in the round-table if we do not receive clear and exact guarantees that within three days from today we will receive a newspaper and after that a building," he said.

UDF spokesman Petar Beron said the opposition would also demand television and radio time to publicise their activities.

Thirty-four members of the UDF, which groups 11 leading opposition organisations, were due to meet government representatives in the afternoon (1230 GMT), a day after parliament deleted key clauses from the constitution enshrining the Communist Party's leading role in government.

Bulgarian leader Petar Mladenov, who ousted veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov last November, has pledged full dialogue with opposition and other parties and called full, free parliamentary elections for May.

But the UDF has accused the government of trying to steal a march on the opposition parties by delaying their attempts to publicise their activities.

More than 50,000 people at a pro-democracy rally on Sunday voted to support UDF demands that full elections be postponed until November to give them more time to prepare.

Beron said the UDF would present their demands at the beginning of discussions in the National Assembly.

"We'll start the conversation with our requests and if they refuse we will stand up and leave the hall," he told Reuters.

Leading politician member Andrei Lukanov told Western journalists yesterday that he did not think the talks would be delayed by the opposition's demands.

"We support in principle their desire to dispose of premises and to publish a newspaper — that's only natural," he said. "But we should avoid preconditions as it's a delicate exercise."

The National Assembly yesterday adopted measures protecting the rights of Bulgaria's Muslim minority and granting amnesty for ethnic Turks imprisoned for refusing to give up their Turkish names.

The Turkish reforms were originally announced by the Communist Party last December in a move that led to days of protests and general strikes by nationalists who feared the measures would divide Bulgaria along religious lines.



Civil war victim
Captain Viktor Spiridonov of Soviet Internal Forces rests in a Yerevan hospital, after being wounded during recent clashes in Azerbaijan. Armenia and Azerbaijan appear to be on the brink of civil war following two days of anti-Armenian rioting. (Reuters wirephoto)

E. German revolution can get out of hand

Plea for calm ignored

EAST BERLIN, Jan 16, (AP): East Germany's communists said today the storming of secret police headquarters showed the country's "street revolution" could get out of hand.

But workers in one city today ignored appeals for calm by the communists and the pro-democracy opposition and staged a warning strike.

The six-hour strike at a state-owned factory in Gera, in southern East Germany, was staged by workers to show dissatisfaction with the still-dominant communists, according to West Berlin's Rias Radio station.

In Bonn, the conservative daily newspaper Die Welt said Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was expected to visit East Berlin in the next two or three weeks.

Die Welt, quoting what it called well-informed sources in East Berlin, said Gorbachev planned a "massive show of support" for his longtime friend, East German Communist Premier Hans Modrow.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans protested yesterday in several cities, including Jena, Zwickau and East Berlin, and mobs ransacked secret police headquarters in East Berlin.

At a news conference, national police chief Dieter Winderlich said prosecutors were already investigating possible criminal charges against those who ransacked the headquarters.

He claimed protesters had also broken into the building's section for counter-espionage activities, but that "the identity of the workers was not revealed."

Winderlich said damage at the building was in the "millions of marks" (hundreds of thousands of dollars).

However, earlier today, East Berlin police chief Dirk Bachmann gave a far lower damage estimate, saying it was "hundreds of marks" (tens of thousands of dollars).

Bachmann also said opposition groups' calls for restraint had prevented injuries during the storming.

The secret police headquarters remained under control of an opposition-led "citizens' committee," regular police officers and government representatives.

In a commentary today, the Communist Party daily newspaper Neues Deutschland said



East Germans look at flying papers after they stormed the headquarters of the secret police in East Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

organisers of protests like that which preceded the storming of secret police headquarters must accept responsibility for the consequences.

"Responsibility also means having a clear idea about consequences before calling for a demonstration, so that things don't get out of hand," the newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Neues Deutschland added: "The call for 'no violence,' which has marked the street revolution from the start, becomes a farce when emotions break through the bounds of reason."

Opposition leaders in East Berlin issued several appeals today morning for calm and urged demonstrators to avoid further violence.

After weeks of talks with Modrow's government, the opposition returned yesterday to the tactics that brought down the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty condemnation: South Korea undid two years of progress on human rights with a programme of mass political arrests in 1989, the human rights group Amnesty International said yesterday in a special report.

The report, entitled "return to repressive force and violence?" Also said there were renewed allegations of torture in South Korea. (UPI)

Peru guerrillas kill 30: Maoist guerrillas killed at least 30 peasants in a attack on three highland villages and army troops killed six members of a rebel column that ambushed them, military authorities said yesterday.

The death toll from Monday's violence was the highest for a single day this year. (AP)

16 killed by mudslide: Sixteen people were killed when the headquarters of the Soviet Union's Caspian fleet in the Azerbaijani capital Baku was hit by a mudslide yesterday, the government newspaper Izvestia said.

"Due to a mudslide, part of the building of the headquarters of the Caspian fleet collapsed," Izvestia said. "Preliminary estimates say 16 people were killed." (Reuters)

Robbed tourists on hunger strike: A group of foreign tourists began a hunger strike on Monday after robbers rifled safe deposit boxes at their Rio hotel, saying the hotel manager had refused to reimburse them for their losses.

The 18 Argentines, two Austrians, two Danes, two Spaniards, one American and an Israeli said robbers took \$120,000 worth of cash and valuables from 42 boxes at the Toledo Hotel in Copacabana on Thursday. (Reuters)

Kemira officials face charges: Officials of the state-owned chemicals company Kemira face charges of illegally carrying explosive devices in their hand luggage on regular commercial flights, Finnish national radio said yesterday.

The Helsinki Sanomat newspaper reported that up to 10 company representatives from Kemira's armaments division carried trade samples of hand grenade fuses and other devices on Finnair flights to Singapore.

Other explosives, including fuses and gunpowder, also were transported in cargo holds, the reports said. (AP)

Italian tourist killed: An Italian tourist was shot dead at a Rio restaurant after his Brazilian girlfriend enraged a man at the next table by translating the argument he was having with a woman, police said yesterday.

Marco Dell'Aquila, 22, was at a Copacabana restaurant on Sunday night with Renata Modesto, 18. The two were distracted by a loud argument between a man and a woman at the table beside them and Modesto began translating it to Dell'Aquila. (Reuters)

UK daily appeals for cash: Britain's communist daily newspaper, the Morning Star, published a front-page appeal to its readers yesterday for £150,000 (\$240,000) cash to buy new equipment.

The appeal was "the only solution to the enormous crisis faced by the paper as the result of the drastic halving of the copies previously ordered by the Soviet Union," the newspaper said.

The Morning Star's Soviet distributor, the Mezhnarodnaya Komunisticheskaya Organizatsiya, ordered it to meet efficiency guidelines. (AP)

Albania denies unrest reports

VIENNA, Austria, Jan 16, (AP): Albanian communist leader Ramiz Alia yesterday denied reports that a state of emergency had been imposed in his country and that some Albanian cities have been hit by unrest.

Alia, in a speech to factory workers in the capital of Tirana, said his country would not stray from the hardline communist course it has pursued for 45 years. The speech was carried by the official Albanian ATA news agency.

Alia lashed out at the official news agency of Yugoslavia, a neighbouring non-aligned communist country.

The agency Tanjug reported Friday that special measures had been imposed in Albania which resembled a state of emergency, but on Saturday appeared to backtrack on the previous report.

Hungary thanks Kaifu

Japan pledges aid

BUDAPEST, Jan 16, (Reuters): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, rounding up a 10-day European tour in Budapest, assured Hungarian leaders today of Japan's thorough support for their economic and political reforms.

The first Japanese premier to visit Hungary in more than a century of diplomatic relations, Kaifu agreed in talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth to start negotiations on a treaty to guarantee investments.

Nemeth urged greater Japanese investment in Hungary, especially to form joint ventures in electronics and pharmaceuticals.

"There are some countries that are concerned about Japan's investment, but Hungary more than welcomes it," one Japanese official quoted Nemeth as saying.

Kaifu also said the Japanese government would like to step up political dialogue with Hungary onto a more regular basis and to invite Hungarian technicians to train in Japan.

He expressed support for moves to put Hungary on a United Nations list of aid recipient countries and to streamline Western curbs on high technology exports to the East bloc.

Nemeth thanked Kaifu for a Japanese aid package to Hungary announced in West Berlin last week and for granting Hungary "most favoured nation" status with regard to trade tariffs.

Mongolian protesters to test leaders' tolerance with demonstration

BEIJING, Jan 16, (Reuters): Mongolia's leaders, the latest to feel pressure from protests transforming the communist world, will have their tolerance tested on Sunday by a mass demonstration in the capital, Ulan Bator, residents say.

Last Sunday up to 5,000 Mongolians gathered in extreme cold in the city's Lenin Square for a protest rally organised by the Mongolian Democratic Union.

It was Mongolia's biggest demonstration in recent history and the third since the opposition

grouping of workers and intellectuals launched itself last month.

"There will be a bigger demonstration this Sunday in Subutor Square," a resident said today, referring to Ulan Bator's main square, named after Mongolia's founder.

"So far the authorities have not taken an official stance towards the group. They are tolerating the demonstrations," said the resident, who was contacted from Beijing in neighbouring China.

A Mongolian Foreign Ministry official contacted by telephone said last Sunday's rally had

the authorities' approval.

"We are saying that it is possible for this organisation to organise this kind of meeting," he told Reuters.

One of the few foreign residents in Ulan Bator, a mixture of tents and concrete blocks that is home to 500,000 people, said it was possible the authorities were behind the protests as a way of allowing discontent to vent itself.

"Some cynical people say they are organised," he said. Another foreigner said he doubted the authorities supported the protests.

State television reported the protest briefly on Sunday evening but authoritative newspapers such as the national daily Ulen have not covered the demonstrations, residents said.

A close ally of Moscow and the second oldest communist state after the Soviet Union, Mongolia under President Zhambyn Batmunkha has launched its own limited reform but too cautiously for some of its two million people.

Residents said Sunday's demonstration was peaceful but some people shouted criticism of national leaders. No arrests were known of and police did not interfere.

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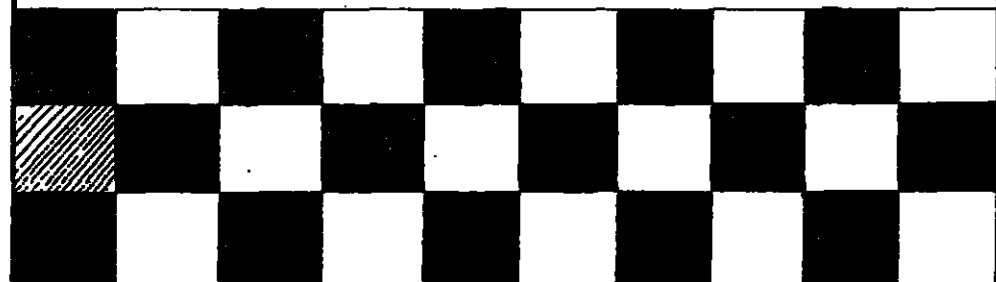
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2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the
4. appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
5. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
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FREE BINGO No. 75 ENTRY



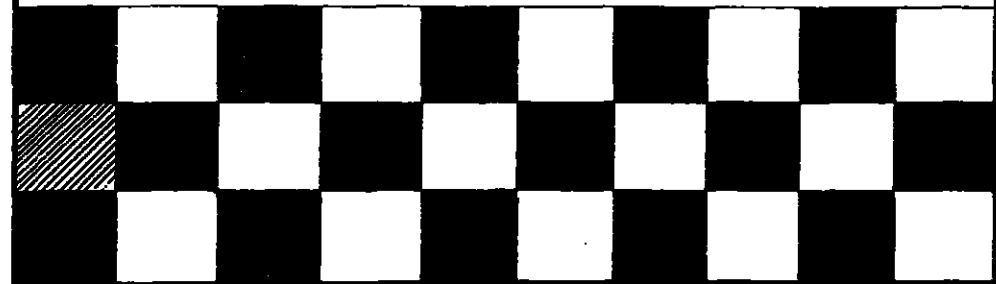
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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

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Arab Times,
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Retired teachers may be re-hired

In-depth study of staff shortage

THE Ministry of Education seeks to benefit from retired teachers — specially teachers of maths and sciences and are studying ways and means to utilise the expertise of retired teachers especially those who retired at early ages, officials sources said.

Sources added that the re-employment of such teachers will meet the shortage of teachers in various disciplines and disclosed that officials at the ministry have asked the educational research centre of the ministry to undertake a study on the reasons for Kuwait teachers seeking early retirement.

The study is intended to put an end to the problem that causes shortage in the teaching staff. Officials said that without determining the actual reasons why Kuwaiti teachers take early retirement, it is premature to recall them to active service. They added that the three months summer holiday allocated to teachers every year is no longer attractive for retired teachers as many have complained that they have lost their social status and respect from pupils and society.

They said that retired teachers will not return to their previous grades or subject to the payment scale of civil service because this violates laws of social security. The only choice of the ministry is to grant these teachers monthly financial rewards, officials said.

Meanwhile, Dr Rashed Al Hamad, assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Education for planning and development said that the ministry has begun to give more authority to educational areas to maintain their schools and utilities.

The ministry has contracted with a local contractor at each area to carry out its maintenance works and has allocated an area wide budget for this purpose.

The ministry has also contracted with co-operative societies to carry out small maintenance works in schools and utilities of the educational areas.

The ministry has over 600 buildings, including schools, Hamad said.

Requirements

Director of the Supplies and Stores Department at the Ministry of Education, Ahmad Dawood Al Jarah said that the department plays an important role in serving educational operations in the country by punctually providing educational establishments with all educational requirements.

He added that a successful educational operation to great extent depends on the level of performance at the supplies and stores departments.

With respect to the new facilities, Jarah stated that the department will transfer the new stores complex in Sabhan. He said that the new complex is provided with modern storage and handling techniques. It consists of a reception store with a total area estimated at 3,300 square metres, in addition to 11 main stores with a total area of 72,600 square metres. He pointed out that the new stores complex is provided with modern shelving with a capacity of 70,000 cubic metres. The administration building consists of three floors.

He summarised the working nature of the Supplies and Stores Department by saying that the department conducts studies on the ministry requirements and prepares a comprehensive list of all educational requirements with the co-operation of concerned parties at the ministry.

Construction projects to be discussed January 20

DR ABDUL Hadi Mohammed Al Awadi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning has said that the Ministerial Committee chaired by the deputy premier and foreign minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber will meet on Saturday 20 Jan to review construction projects falling within the jurisdiction of the national development plan for the year 1990/1995.

The meeting would discuss the cost of these projects upon becoming operational. The committee has already discussed projects proposed by all government agencies at a meeting held on the MOP premises with representatives from the government agencies involved, the official said.

He pointed out that the construction and manpower cost of the proposed new projects would also come under discussion during the meeting.

Long-term plans prepared jointly by the Ministry of Planning and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research for national socio-economic planning, based on the general government development strategy, would also be discussed, Awadi said.

The plan has been drawn up based on an objective study and evaluating of the national social and economic characteristics as seen through the social and economic mathematical matrix developed to test the effects of alternative policies on socio-economic parameters.

The general framework of the 90/95 national development plan would be submitted for discussion to the Ministerial Committee, Awadi said.

CAA statistics

THE Civil Aviation Authority announced that 2,214 arrivals and departures were recorded at the airport during last month marking an increase of 1 per cent in flights compared to the same period in 1988.

The number of passengers arriving at the airport in December 1989, totalled 97,903 passengers — without any increase compared to the same period in 1988. Departures during the same period totalled 101,023 passengers marking a reduction of seven per cent during the same period in 1988.

The report added that air freight (imports and exports) in Dec 89 amounted to 729,96,678 kilos, registering an increase of 3 per cent over the figure recorded in 1988.

Dec 1989 figures showed a reduction in passengers leaving Kuwait as against an increase of passengers arriving. The report attributed the reason to the difficult weather conditions in Europe and USA as well as the increase of prices of air tickets to these places which compelled travellers along with their families to stay in Kuwait.

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Ameeq Souq... traditional face lift

Restored souqs keep popular traditions alive

AS OF Nov. 1988, the Ministry of Public Works started a wide range of restoration works at Kuwait City markets. Along with the ministry, Kuwait Municipality and the Government Properties Department at the Ministry of Finance carried out several restoration projects at these souqs.

Projects included restoration and rebuilding works on most old and popular local souqs. The first project was carried out at Al Ameeq Souq.

These works aim at preserving these markets and rebuilding them using traditional construction materials like wood, in addition to other modern materials.

The Ameeq Souq, previously consisted of a group of plots owned by a number of merchants. The government of Kuwait, at a later stage bought most of these plots. It consists of 61 commercial shops now owned by the government represented by the State Domains Department.

The project designs were made in a way to preserve the popular form of the market at the same time the number of shops will increase up to 80 after the end of restoration.

The cost of restoration works carried out at the Ameeq Souq is estimated at KD1,340,000.

The fish, mutton and eggs markets will also be a part of restoration works which will begin later. Restoration works to be conducted at these markets are expected to cost KD5 million.

These markets consist of 51 shops, 47 fish stalls, 181 vegetables stalls, 62 confectionery shops, 22 retail shops for foodstuffs, 14 variety shops in addition to 37 offices and one ice store.

Meanwhile, director of the State Domains Department at the Ministry of Finance, Youssef Al Dakheel, passed the level of restoration work carried out at the Ameeq Souq. He pointed out that the market's new design will hopefully gain the appreciation of residents.

He indicated that the Municipal Affairs Committee recommended that shops at Al Ameeq Souq should be allocated to those Kuwaiti investors who owned shops there from the 1950's. He said that they will have priority of investing in these shops after the completion of the project.

Atiqi in Oman

MUSCAT, Jan 16 (Kuna): Advisor at Kuwait's Amiri Diwan Abdul Rahman Saleem Al Atiqi arrived here today for a brief visit to the Sultanate of Oman, the Omani News Agency reported.

ONA quoted Atiqi as saying on arrival that he carries a message from HH the Amir to Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.

Atiqi was received on arrival by special advisor to the Sultan Dr Mubarak Bin Saleh Al Khaduri and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Muscat Abdul Wahab Al Othman.

Mosques at border

THE Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company (KNPC) will build mosques at three border posts for men and women prayers, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa announced.

The official said that instructions to the effect were given by HH the Amir with the aim of preparing prayer sites for males and females travelling across the border.

These mosques will be built at six gasoline stations of KNPC at the border posts of Al Abdali, Salemi and Nuwaiseeb. Sheikh Ali explained.

Health emergency numbers change

DUE to some changes, additions and modifications conducted on telephone numbers of the Public Health Emergency and Ambulance Centres, the Ministry of Public Health presented a table of telephone numbers of these centres instead of the previous numbers.

Central Emergency Room: (4313135-4313151)
Direct Lines: 4311769-4311759
Ambulance Wireless: 4311762-4311761-4311760-4311765-4311764-4311763

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Sabah Hospital Ambulance Centre | 4810221 |
| 2. Jahra Hospital Ambulance Centre | 4575448 |
| 3. Farwaniya Hospital Ambulance Centre | 4883000 |
| 4. Addan Hospital Ambulance Centre | 3941455 |
| 5. Mubarak Hospital Ambulance Centre | 5311437 |
| 6. Ameeq Hospital Ambulance Centre | 2422366 |
| 7. Daiya Ambulance Centre | 2510854 |
| 8. Jahra Ambulance Centre | 4774501 |
| 9. Farwaniya Ambulance Centre | 4735292 |
| 10. Faikala Ambulance Centre | 2791175 |
| 11. Faiba Ambulance Centre | 2553779 |
| 12. Fahheel Ambulance Centre | 3919089 |
| 13. Salmiya Ambulance Centre | 5739011 |
| 14. Abdali Ambulance Centre | 2700262 |
| 15. Khairan Resort Ambulance Centre | Via Wireless |
| 16. Faikala Resort Ambulance Centre | Via Wireless |
| 17. Entertainment City Ambulance Centre | 4876631 |
| 18. International Airport Ambulance Centre | 4717425 |
| 19. Shuwaik Port Ambulance Centre | 3262716 |
| 20. Shuwaik Medical Ambulance Centre | 3261955 |
| 21. Shuwaik Port Ambulance Centre | 4813535 |
| 22. Salmiya Ambulance Centre | 2449476 |
| 23. Abdali Ambulance Centre (Kabab) | 4897931 |
| 24. Um Al Aish Rescue Centre | 2467098 |
| 25. Nuwaiseeb Rescue Centre | 3950114 |
| 26. Qurain Rescue Centre (Wafra Road) | 3297878 |
| 27. Salmi Rescue Centre (Shaqaya) | 4587088 |
| 28. Reqa Ambulance Centre | 3945121 |
| 29. Wafra Ambulance Centre | 3952144 |
| 30. Umm Al Haiman Ambulance Centre | 3292107 |
| 31. Sabah Al Salem Ambulance Centre | 5518225 |
| 32. Sabahiya Ambulance Centre | 3611174 |
| 33. Sulabiya Ambulance Centre | 4676796 |
| 34. Sulabiya Ambulance Centre | 4870116 |
| 35. Khairan Ambulance Centre | Via Wireless |

All above telephone numbers operate around the clock, in case of any connection faults use wireless or the Central Emergency room.

Advertising association meets here

THE second regional meeting of the International Advertising Association will be held in Kuwait today and tomorrow.

Tarek Al Rujaib, the council member from Kuwait, who is organising this meeting here said in a press release that the morning session today will be for the Super Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Chapter meeting.

The Super GCC Chapter was formed recently and had its first meeting in Dubai. The objective of forming the Super GCC Chapter was to bring together advertisers, advertising agencies and the media in enhancing professional practice. In the same meeting, other topics were discussed including how other GCC countries could benefit from the planned educational effort in the United Arab

Emirates and participation in the future events such as International Advertising Association (IAA) World Congress in Hamburg.

Rujaib further added that on the occasion of this meeting, there will be also a reception in the evening at 19:30, at the Terrace Room of Kuwait International Hotel. This reception will be attended by the local advertisers, advertising agencies and media persons.

Thursday the 18th of January 1990, will witness the regional meeting from 9 in the morning till 6 in the evening. The agenda of the meeting will include reports from the chapter's presidents, suggestions for major activities in the region, recruitment drive, Eurocom '90 Conference, World Congress and open discussions.

Organise expatriate housing: Rujaib

KUWAIT should support proposals to organise the housing facilities of expatriate manpower as a security procedure, the former housing minister Hamad Essa Al Rujaib said.

He added that Kuwait mainly depends on expatriate manpower at the present time and the existing situation obliges us to organise and control foreign manpower to achieve security requirements.

Hamad called for encouraging citizens to get land allotments and loans to build houses instead of waiting for government housing. He recommended transferring the charter of the Savings & Credit Bank to address a housing bank which would integrate the role of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

He added that flats built by NHA will not be totally distributed until the law of vertical building of the authority is applied. He commented that the law should be enforced against contractors who do not abide by contracts with NHA. He further recommended that geological studies be undertaken of sites of housing projects prior to execution of these projects to avoid problems as that which occurred in the Darr Housing Area.

He said that Kuwait does not suffer from a housing problem as is known in many countries of the world. People are not satisfied with getting the housing service provided by the government, but demand possession of their government housing. Hamad said and added that the state aims at offering stability and good living standards for Kuwaiti families.

Traditions

Hamad explicated that the present style of the building system (villas) has taken most lands and commented that the vertical system (flats) is ideal for Kuwait due to paucity of land.

He went on to state some people claim that flats contradict with tradition and every citizen should have his own separate house. The ex-official said that this concept is wrong because Kuwaitis were not living in such villas and inside houses. Most Kuwaitis were sleeping on the roof of their houses and lived in a simple Arab style houses. "I was one of these people," Hamad said.

He said that the private sector can play a vital role in solving the housing problem. The private sector can contribute to carrying out the housing projects and in reducing the period that citizens have to wait before getting government housing.

Prices stable

THE Kuwait Union of consumer Co-operative Societies said that no increases will be allowed in the existing prices of commodities at the societies.

This decision taken at a meeting held between officials of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Social Affairs and labour stressed the need to ensure that there are no increases in existing level of prices of commodities at co-operatives.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

YOU cannot climb the ladder of success with cold feet of fear — anonymous

Punjab security forces curbed

AMRITSAR, India, (Reuters): The new Indian government, trying to negotiate an end to a bloody Sikh separatist campaign, has told security forces in Punjab to act within the law.

Senior officials in Punjab and New Delhi admitted in interviews that the security forces had abused their power under the previous government during a war that has spanned nearly a decade and cost thousands of lives.

"The violence was met by state violence and as a result Sikh youth has been alienated. Innocent people have been killed," said a cabinet minister who asked not to be identified.

"You kill one innocent boy and the whole area will be affected," he said. "They all know whether he is a terrorist or not."

Curbing the security forces is a prime demand of hardline Sikh politicians who won most Punjab parliamentary seats in the November elections that ousted Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party.

The Sikh politicians allege the current killings — more than 100 have been reported this year — are the work of vigilante groups set up by the security forces or simple murders by police who report them as encounters with militants.

Amnesty International, the prominent human-rights group, has long asked New Delhi to be allowed into Punjab to investigate widespread allegations of abuse.

Rajiv rebuffed each request saying the Indian legal system was competent to deal with any charges. The new administration of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is reviewing the question, but has not reached a decision, officials said.

State officials decline comment on specific allegations and say there are no plans to investigate past abuses.

"The policy is not to look into the past. The new stand is to keep within the law," a senior Punjab official said.

Police last year reported more than 2,000 deaths they attributed to the campaign by militants for an independent Sikh homeland they call Khalistan (land of the pure).

Local journalists mistrust the figures. "Half the time we have no idea of what really happened. We have been misled by the police so many times we are truly cynical," said one.

The violence from both sides leaves people scared.

Everybody knows the vigilantes have not been paid since V.P. Singh came to power and everybody knows they have got into the extortion business," said a Sikh businessman in Amritsar.

"When you get a letter demanding money on, say, Bindrawale Tiger Force-headed newspaper, you don't know whether it's come from the boys (militants) or who it's come from. You pay anyway," he said.

Militant kidnappings for ransom are frequent. Journalists say a prominent local figure kidnapped recently was told he had been exploiting people and now it was his turn to be exploited.

They said he paid a 2.1 million rupee (\$120,000) ransom and was then told if one word of this was published his family would be wiped out.

Officials said militants were now turning their money-raising efforts on income-tax inspectors, telling them they had been "fleeing" people long enough and now it was their turn to pay.

"Life may look normal enough in Amritsar, but it's not. We're all scared. This used to be a city that was open round the clock. Now it's closed down by 10-30 at night," the businessman said.

Mauritania-Senegal conflict worsens

NOUAKCHOTT, (Reuters): Gunfire echoes ominously across the river border between Mauritania and Senegal, a menacing background sound at a time of hushed peace talks between the two West African nations.

Western diplomats said the simmering 10-month border conflict had worsened despite discreet mediation of Egypt, whose President Hosni Mubarak is currently chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

"Sporadic shelling between the two armies has become common across the river. But the most worrying is the recent escalation in the use of weapons — heavy artillery such as mortars, machine-guns and guns have now replaced light rifles and sub-machine guns," one diplomat familiar with the region said.

Secret talks in Paris earlier this month came after the first casualty was reported from the two armies facing each other across the shallow River Senegal — a Senegalese soldier killed in shelling of a border village by Mauritania forces.

Since then, at least two other incidents involving troops have been reported. Diplomats said the Paris talks were to pave the way for further talks later this month, but neither government has confirmed that they took place.

The talks would be the first direct contact between the two countries since a brief meeting of interior ministers last June at the border town of Rosso to swap stranded cattle.

Two previous rounds of talks at ministerial level in neighbouring Mali failed to resolve the conflict, which started with a minor dispute over grazing rights at the frontier and led to ethnic riots and a flood of refugees in both directions.

Both governments appear keen to play down the current tension along their 800-km (500-mile) long border.

"Neither Mauritania nor Senegal could really expose themselves to ridicule and afford going to war. After all, the economic future of two of the world's poorest nations is at stake," a Mauritanian official told Reuters.

Senegal and Mauritania severed diplomatic links in August after communal violence killed hundreds of people and uprooted thousands in April and May. The conflict has revived ancient rivalries between black Senegal and mostly Arab Mauritania.

Mauritania has accused Senegal of fanning tension by sending and arming gangs of cattle raiders across the river and denied that its own regular army had been sent to the border.

Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed said deployment of the Senegalese army on the border was a serious provocation. He suggested an end to hostile media propaganda, removal of troops from the border, reunification of divided families, return of property left across the border or financial compensation, and a halt to armed raids across the river.

"Any agreement which does not take these elements of detente into account would be misleading," the minister warned.

The release this weekend in Nouakchott of 23 Senegalese fishermen arrested in July inside Mauritanian territorial waters is an encouraging sign, diplomats in the region said.

Senegal says all the waters are Senegalese, basing its claim on a 1933 French colonial decree saying the international border lies along the northern bank of the river.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1562 — Michel de L'Hopital promulgates edict of St Germain, which recognises Huguenots in France.

1595 — France's King Henry IV declares war on Spain.

1601 — Treaty of Lyons between France, Spain and Savoy; capital of Spain is transferred from Madrid to Valladolid.

1656 — Treaty of Koenigsberg between Sweden and Brandenburg.

1759 — Holy Roman Empire declares war on Prussia.

1852 — Sand River Convention establishes South African Republic of Transvaal.

1945 — Soviet troops and Polish patriot forces liberate Warsaw, more than five years after it fell to Nazi Germany in World War II.

1948 — Netherlands and Republic of Indonesia sign truce.

1959 — Federal state of Mali is formed by union of Republics of Senegal and French Sudan.

1967 — Indonesia's foreign minister Adam Malik tells President Sukarno to resign or face alternative of being brought down in dishonour.

1988 — Iran says Revolutionary Guards launched offensive against Iraqi forces in northern mountains of Kurdistan.

1989 — Military officials of North Korea and United Nations command meet for the first time since the end of the Korean war to discuss tension-easing measures.

Mubarak makes big waves

Grip on power tightened

CAIRO, (Reuters): Hosni Mubarak gave the people some of what they wanted on Friday when he sacked his universally unpopular interior minister, Zaki Badr.

"With this one act Mubarak has gained a lot of credit and is riding a popular wave," said political observer Tahseen Bashir.

More than one columnist had in recent weeks hinted that Egypt, where Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party remains all pervasive despite the existence of opposition parties, would do well to draw a lesson from the overthrow of authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe.

Mubarak appears to have taken the point well, and the democratic changes sweeping Eastern Europe were certainly on the mind of at least one source close to the presidency.

The hammer of Muslim fundamentalists in particular, Badr had outlived his usefulness after nearly four years in office with his sweeping denunciations and suppression of dissent.

Badr's successor, Mohammed Abdel-Halim Moussa, has a reputation as a stickler for upholding the rule of law.

His first action as minister has been to order a review of all detainees held under emergency regulations but there is as yet no sign that those special powers may be rescinded.

Political analysts believe the affair says much more about Mubarak's confidence in wielding power than the excesses of a security chief whose vulgarly offended many devout citizens.

The 61-year-old president seems at last to have emerged from his self-made chrysalis to stamp his style on political life.

Last April, the former air force chief took his countrymen by surprise by removing the charismatic and powerful Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala from the Defence Ministry.

At a stroke, he had checked the spreading political and economic muscle of the armed forces and neutralised Abu Ghazala, a man widely regarded as Washington's man at court and dubbed by many as the uncrowned king of Egypt.

With Badr's sacking, Mubarak has shown himself to be fully in control of the civil and military levers of state.

Mubarak did not seek power, nor achieve it by



Mubarak very much in control

any political manoeuvres of his own. Instead it was thrust upon him as vice-president when Anwar Sadat was gunned down in 1981.

Sadat was a difficult act to follow, both in terms of his larger-than-life public image and his legacy.

He left Mubarak massive foreign debts and a peace treaty with Israel that had made Egypt, once proud torch-bearer of Arab nationalism and unity, a pariah in Arab eyes.

The cautious Mubarak has slowly but steadily managed to clip the wings of potential rivals, mend fences with Sadat's foes Syria and Libya and gain valuable credit abroad as mediator between Palestinians and Israel.

While using Badr to suppress fundamentalist opposition, he has nevertheless allowed other opposition parties and newspapers to flourish.

His greatest test is yet to come, however.

With foreign debt estimated at nearly \$50 million Mubarak is grappling with the International Monetary Fund over a reforms package that would help him reschedule some of the debt and release new credits to revitalise an ailing economy.

To make it work other public figures, some in power since Sadat's rule, may have to join Badr and Abu Ghazala on Mubarak's political hit list, the analysts say.

Reds waning influence underscored

East Europeans give Soviets the sack

VIENNA, Austria, (AP): Now that they have overturned the Stalinist systems imposed on them by Moscow, some East Europeans are demanding the Soviet troops that underwrote communist rule in their countries go home this year.

The demands underscore the Soviets' waning influence in Eastern Europe, and they will prove a test of Moscow's willingness to relinquish control over a region where it has held sway for more than 40 years.

If realized, the demands could also put pressure on Nato to match the Soviet troops pullouts with withdrawals of US and other allied forces in Western Europe, perhaps escalating sharp cutbacks already envisaged at Vienna talks on conventional arms reduction.

Both superpowers already have signaled willingness at those talks for sizeable cuts in their European forces.

Washington proposes a ceiling of 275,000 men each for the United States and the Soviet Union, while the Soviets want slightly higher ceilings that would remove other forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization from West Germany.

The United States has about 300,000 troops stationed in Europe the Soviets have 575,000, according to US estimates.

The Vienna agreement probably would envisage phased withdrawal over the next decade, rather than the immediate Soviet pullout this year sought by Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

East Germany, strategically most important to the Kremlin, has made more modest demands. Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi proposed all foreign troops leave both Germanys by 1999 — a timetable and balance that probably matches Moscow's thinking.

Romania and Bulgaria, with no Soviet troops, are silent on the issue, while the prospect of German reunification leaves Poland in the awkward position of viewing the Warsaw Pact as a guarantor of its current borders.

The most strident demand for swift Soviet withdrawal has come from Prague, whose new coalition government opens negotiations Jan 15 with the Soviets on the pullout of Red Army soldiers who arrived with the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion and never left.

"I suggest that the Soviet troops should withdraw from Czechoslovakia by the end of 1990," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky, like his minister and friend Jiri Dienstbier a former dissident, said last week.

In Hungary, too, Soviet troops arrived to sup-

press revolution — the 1956 uprising against Stalinism — and, as in Czechoslovakia, stayed under bilateral agreements now declared void in Prague and considered invalid by most Hungarians.

After the foreign affairs and military committees of Hungary's parliament demanded withdrawal by the end of this year, Hungarian Premier Miklos Nemeth met Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov last week to arrange bilateral talks on the issue.

But Nemeth — unlike leaders of the current Prague government — has stressed that withdrawal depends on an agreement at the Vienna talks on Europe-wide troop reductions.

Some 10,000 Soviet soldiers already have left both Hungary and Czechoslovakia under the phased withdrawal of 50,000 men from Eastern Europe, which was announced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in December 1988.

An additional 6,000 of the 52,000 Soviet troops said to be left in Hungary are due to leave this year, and an undisclosed number are scheduled to leave Czechoslovakia, where officials say there are some 70,000 Soviet forces.

A tank regiment of 1,300 men, an anti-aircraft regiment, a helicopter regiment and two battalions withdrew from Poland in 1989, with an additional brigade of landing and assault troops due to leave this year.

But Poland, in many fields an outspoken leader of Eastern Europe's pull away from the Kremlin, has been quiet about demanding a full withdrawal of Soviet troops.

"Poland is one of the strongest supporters of the Warsaw Pact left in Eastern Europe," noted Hans Bendoric, director of studies at London's International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Poland has suffered throughout its history from being sandwiched between Russia and Germany. With talk of German reunification growing, the Warsaw Pact is protection against suggestions in West Germany of reclaiming former German territory that became part of Poland after World War II.

East Germany traditionally was viewed by Red Army chiefs as the biggest conquest in the vast chunks of territory won in World War II, protecting the Russians from a repeat of the devastating Nazi attack in 1941 and enabling the Kremlin to threaten Western Europe.

Moscow has about 380,000 troops in East Germany.

Gysi's 1999 deadline for all foreign forces to leave both Germanys fits better with the Kremlin's thinking than quick withdrawals this year.

At the Vienna talks, the United States has proposed reducing US and Soviet troops stationed abroad in the Nato and Warsaw Pact nations to 275,000 for each superpower.



Soviet troops: rumbling out

British army ambush revives bitter row

DUBLIN, (Reuters): The death of three petty criminals in a British army ambush has revived a bitter row over alleged "shoot-to-kill" tactics just as Northern Ireland's politicians seemed ready to discuss running their own province.

Undercover soldiers shot dead three masked men robbing a Belfast betting shop with imitation guns, sparking an uproar that could hardly have come at a more sensitive time.

Only last week Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke, gently probing ways of ending direct rule from London, called for talks with local leaders on mapping out a locally-run government for the divided province.

"I think there is a bit of movement," he said with the note of caution so necessary in Northern Ireland where almost 3,000 people have died in the Irish Republic Army (IRA) battle to oust Britain.

But as news emerged that the latest three victims were unconnected with the IRA government called for a full report and nationalist charged that the

security forces had again failed to give suspects the chance to surrender.

"We would wish to have it thoroughly and fully investigated and explanations procured," Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey said.

Eyewitnesses alleged the three were shot down in cold blood. "They never stood a chance," said a spokesman for the moderate nationalist SDLP.

Eight years ago British security forces were accused of adopting a "shoot-to-kill" policy after six alleged nationalist guerrillas were shot dead at roadblocks and in ambushes.

British commandos then hit the international spotlight in March 1988 when they shot dead three unarmed IRA guerrillas on an abortive bombing raid in Gibraltar.

Brooke's initiative for talks between the unionists and moderate nationalists was not met by the usual rebuff from unionist politicians representing the north's one-million strong Protestant majority.

Unionist Ken Maginnis said: "There is some

optimism that it could open a door to significant developments."

For the unionists, the big stumbling block is the 1985 Anglo-Irish accord that gave Dublin a consultative voice in the daily running of the north.

Unionists argue it was the first step on the road to unification with the Irish Republic and what it suspended before they will talk.

One of the prime aims of the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement was to boost the confidence of the Catholic Nationalist minority in the security forces.

John Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), said he was willing to sit down with any other party at any time but was against suspending the Anglo-Irish accord.

The Dublin government welcomed Brooke's cautious feelers which a spokesman said were "clearly intended to advance the prospects for political dialogue."

But after 700 years of often oppressive colonial rule by Britain, history is still one long, vividly remembered yesterday in Ireland.

Art Buchwald

Lobbyists kept on job

THERE is so much happening in the Soviet bloc that people have not been able to absorb it all. A lot of it is good for America, but not necessarily for all Americans.

Edgar Trimotor, one of Washington's great consultants, is a victim of the precarious state of communism. I know this because I spoke to him as he was putting out cardboard boxes in the hall the other day.

"Are you moving?" I asked him.

"What would you do if the Cold War was over?"

"I didn't know it was over."

"It's over as far as Washington is concerned. They're shooting down government consultants as if they were tin soldiers. I just came from the Pentagon. I wanted to do a study on Soviet death rays. They told me to forget it. The Soviets presented one as a gift to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on their last visit to the Siberian Missile Proving Grounds."

"I cannot believe that the United States would be lulled into complacency just because the East Germans are no longer climbing the wall," I said.

"It doesn't matter if they're lulled or not. We're dealing with a congressional mentality which says that if there is no Cold War, then you might as well put all your money in the pork barrel. I've been begging to do a study on multiple warheads, but they say that there is no reason to consult about them if Gorbachev is going to make a deal to blow up his own stockpile. It's dangerous for people to say that there is no Soviet threat. There are too many defence jobs at stake."

I asked, "Why do you have to have a Cold War with the Soviet Union? Why not have it with Cuba or Nicaragua?"

"Because," he told me, "you don't need consultants and lobbyists to support a Cold War in Cuba. The Defence Department can handle that without us. This capital was made for men and women who were willing to back for the weapons this country needed to protect its national security — for a price. Everybody who fought for a strong defence is now a casualty of glasnost."

"Maybe you can go into another business," I suggested.

"We don't know any other business," he shouted. "We were born defence consultants and we'll die defence consultants."

"I wonder if the Soviets have any consultants who are in the same trouble."

"I'm certain that they do, and I'll bet they're not any happier with the alleged ending of the cold war than we are."

"Why don't you accuse the Soviets of cheating? That might split the sides apart again."

"No one cares if they cheated or not. The big thing is that both countries are getting tired of spending billions of dollars to find the perfect boom."

"People admire consultants only when the country is threatened. As soon as there is a hint of peace, everybody forgets that you exist."

Trimotor was tying up his boxes. "Well, they better not look for me. I've told them how to spend their last \$10 billion without kissing the Free World goodbye. Whenever the Soviets start up their old tricks, Pentagon officials will try to round up every consultant they can get. But they're going to have to fight a new Cold War without me. I've been burned on peace overtures once too often."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Quote me

"Some think all the answers to this year's problems can be found by spending what they are calling in Washington a peace dividend. That's like the next-of-kin who spent the inheritance before the will is read. Unfortunately, what is being packaged as a dividend is not money in the bank. It is more like a future inheritance." — Bush on the East-West detente and Americans.

"We like what's happening in Central Europe... but in this world of change, one thing is certain: American must be ready. As excited as I am about the change that is leading towards a more peaceful Europe... America must be strong." — President Bush to the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

"I strongly support Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika and his commitment to peaceful change and openness but this is not a time when we should naively cut the muscle out of our defence posture." — US President George Bush.

"When you see the changes in Eastern Europe, see Gorbachev struggling against what some would say are terribly difficult odds, things are coming our way. They're moving towards freedom, they're moving towards democracy and I'm proud to be at the helm." — President Bush.

"It all began in 1961 when he was a member — and by no means one of the rank and file — of the Soviet mission at the UN and for the first time handed over secret information to a member of the American special services with whom he had become acquainted at a reception on the previous day." — Radio Moscow announcing the death sentence of a Soviet who spied for America.

"Those who call themselves religious groups are people who have no legitimacy to exist... But if (their) call to abide by God is disciplined and does not breach security, so be it. But if security is shaken, we will not allow it." — Egypt's new interior minister.

"There is common recognition between the Israeli officials and the Palestinian officials that the health status of the Palestinians is not as good as that of the Israeli citizens." — US Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan.

"More so than any other form of endeavour in our society, I'm very proud of what we have done in the military over the years, and I think for the most part it is a meritocracy. You are not limited by anything but your own ability." — Gen. Colin L. Powell chairman of US Joint Chiefs of Staff on whether he considers the US military a "meritocracy" and equal-opportunity employer.

"The management of the Jerusalem Post has requested its attorneys to consider legal action against some of the persons who resigned from the paper this month, in view of their actions and words during and after their employment. The relevant material has been handed to the attorneys." — The Jerusalem Post threatening staff who quit in a dispute with the publisher.

"Sporadic shelling between the two armies has become common across the river. But the most worrying is the heavy artillery such as mortars, machine-guns and sub-machine guns have now replaced light rifles and sub-machine guns." — A diplomat on the escalation of the Mauritania-Senegal conflict.

MIDEAST

PLO pushed too far

Israel afraid of peace: Hussein

BOSTON, Jan 16, (Agencies): Jordan's King Hussein has warned that the PLO has little room left for political concessions in getting peace talks started with Israel, according to an interview published yesterday.

"If the PLO appears to be giving and giving and more is demanded of it, what can be the result, except shaking the foundation of confidence that it has from its constituency," Hussein said in an interview published in the Boston Globe newspaper.

"My fear is that there are attempts to undermine the PLO, to destroy its image with its own constituency," he said.

Hussein's warning came amid increased pressure from Arab leaders who have told PLO chairman Yasser Arafat that he has gone too far toward satisfying the US demands surrounding proposed Israel-Palestinian peace talks.

Hussein said even though the PLO has met US criteria for becoming peace negotiating partners, the peace dialogue has remained stalled.

"Basically, my feeling is that the Israeli leadership in power now is afraid of peace," Hussein said during an interview on Saturday at his home in Amman. "It is afraid to take a historic gamble and make a historic contribution."

He said the PLO's key decision to accept Israel's right to exist and adopt UN Security Council resolutions had not spurred the peace process. If Secretary of State James A. Baker failed to break the stalemate, "the situation will deteriorate."

Hussein told the Globe that Jordan, which is 1988 cut ties with the West Bank, would play a role in supporting the PLO's efforts to secure a role in negotiating an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Speaker of the Palestine National Council, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, said today that the PLO may call an extraordinary meeting of its parliament in exile to discuss Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

'Worthless trash' sparks criticism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 16, (AP): Legislators said yesterday they will investigate a university professor for calling the army's chief of staff "worthless trash" who abandoned soldiers combatting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Martin Van Carfeld, a professor and military analyst at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said he called Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron "dreck," Yiddish for worthless trash, during a lecture on Sunday.

Speaking on Israel Radio yesterday, Van Carfeld defended his remarks, saying that soldiers are being sent on impossible missions in the 25-month Palestinian uprising.

"I used examples from the distant past ... and present, because the issue was commanding ... and the issue is that the chief of staff is abandoning his soldiers every day and every hour," Van Carfeld said.

"On the one hand, they are supposed to suppress riots, and on the other hand, they have regulations for opening fire that cannot be fulfilled under the circumstances," he said.

Van Carfeld said that if a soldier makes a mistake or deliberately violates orders, he faces trial and "the chief of staff and his representatives do not come to their defence."

"First they send their people to the West Bank and Gaza and they don't back them up when they stand trial ... (dreck) is the only phrase I know," he said.

"We have lots of 'issues to discuss, primarily the United States' and Israel's stubbornness towards peace in the Middle East," Al Sayeh said in a telephone interview.

Baker will host trilateral talks this week with Israeli Defence Minister

Yitzhak Rabin and Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid, Israeli media reported today. The news came as Abdel-Meguid left unexpectedly early today for Washington accompanied by Osama El Baz, a top aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Tehran to free Egyptians

NICOSIA, Jan 16, (Reuters): Iran indicated today it was ready to release Egyptians captured during its war with Iraq.

"If the Cairo government extends an official request for the release of its POWs, the Islamic Republic (of Iran) would study it," the Iranian news agency Irna quoted Mohammad Ali Nazarian, head of the committee in charge of Iraqi prisoners of war, as saying.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said in November they hoped discreet contacts would help secure the release of the Egyptians and pave way for rapprochement.

Egyptian sources have reported that up to several thousand Egyptians are held in Iran, but Tehran has not given a figure.

Iraq's official news agency INA said in February Iran held no more than 213 non-Iraqi POWs. Tehran has freed six Somali and four Lebanese captives since then.

Syria bars Iranian guards

BEIRUT, Jan 16, (UPI): Syrian authorities have barred 60 Iranian Revolutionary Guards from entering Lebanon in a move aimed at hindering Iranian presence in the war-torn country local newspapers reported today.

The newspaper An Nahar quoted security sources as saying the Syrian authorities have been putting restrictions since the beginning of the year on Iranians, including 60 Revolutionary Guards who wanted to enter Lebanon through the Syrian-Lebanese border.

The Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) were to replace an equal number of colleagues who had left Lebanon for home, the sources said.

An estimated 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards have been in eastern Lebanon since 1982. They originally came to join the fight against Israeli invaders, but remained to provide members of the fundamentalist Hezbollah with training and indoctrination into Iran's Islamic revolution.

Observers believe the reported restrictions also were aimed at limiting Hezbollah activity in the country. The pro-Iranian group has been battling with the Syrian-backed Amal movement in the Tufah area of southern Lebanon since Dec 23.

Hezbollah is fighting for its return to southern Lebanon under an accord worked out last year in Syria. The accord stipulated the establishment of a joint "operations room" to co-ordinate commando attacks against Israel, but the provisions of the accord never materialised.

At least 88 people have been killed and 308 others wounded in the fighting for the control of the Tufah area, east of the port city of Sidon, 24 miles (38 km) south of Beirut.

The deployment of some 700 Palestinian commandos in certain parts of the strategic district two weeks ago checked the advance there of the fundamentalists who gained the upper hand in the 26-day fighting.

It was not immediately known if the Syrian measures were temporary or permanent. But there have been reports that Damascus may be moving to scale down its alliance with Tehran in favour of the newly established relationship with Egypt.

Syria and Egypt last month resumed diplomatic relations after a 12-year break.

Israel told to stop aiding Ethiopia

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 16, (Reuters): The United States has urged Israel to refrain from giving military aid to the embattled Ethiopian government of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Israeli Foreign Ministry sources said today.

A spokesman for the ministry denied Israel was sending arms or military advisers to Addis Ababa but declined comment on reports that a high-level Israeli defence delegation recently visited Ethiopia.

"The Americans have made clear to us they are very interested in ensuring there is

no support for the Mengistu regime," one Israeli official told Reuters.

The daily newspaper Al Hamishmar said yesterday that senior Israeli army officers headed by a major-general visited Ethiopia recently to study requests from the Soviet-backed government for military assistance.

Such reports are usually suppressed by military censorship.

Al Hamishmar said the Israeli delegation recommended aid be delayed because Addis Ababa could fall following advances by Muslim rebels towards the capital.

The British newspaper the Independent reported that Israel had tried to sell 15 of its Kfir fighter-bombers to Ethiopia but Washington blocked the deal by barring the sale of weapons systems with US-made components.

There have been repeated foreign reports that Israel was sending arms and advisers to Ethiopian government forces since Addis Ababa last November restored diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. Ties were severed during the 1973 Middle East war.

Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa told

Reuters in Nairobi by telephone yesterday that two vessels had discharged arms from Israel at the Red Sea port of Asab two weeks ago.

Many of the foreign reports have speculated that Israel had agreed to exchange military assistance in return for Mengistu's willingness to let the remaining Ethiopian Jews emigrate to the Jewish state.

Israel brought nearly 15,000 of the so-called Falashas here in a clandestine airlift codenamed "Operation Moses" in 1984-85.

Tough tongue: Badr's nemesis

CAIRO, Jan 16, (AP): Egyptian and international human rights groups have accused ousted interior minister Zaki Badr's agents of making torture routine, but his downfall was apparently how he guarded his tongue, not his prisons.

A report by the Egyptian organisation for human rights alleged a rapid rise last year of torture, mainly of Muslim fundamentalists, in a trend evident since mid-1987. That was a little more than a year after Badr took control of domestic security.

In 1989, the London-based Amnesty International human rights watchdog group said there was a "pattern of torture" in Egypt's jails.

President Hosni Mubarak fired Badr last Friday, a day after the Egyptian organisation for human rights report was issued.

Mubarak's move was praised by Egyptians who accused Badr of ruthlessness, but little mention has been made of the torture charges.

Mubarak has not said why he fired Badr. Monday, new interior Minister Abdel Halim Moussa denied the human rights allegations.

Badr's "speaking style was far removed from the propriety required in social and political dialogue," one of the country's most respected newspaper columnists, Monassa Sabry, wrote in Monday's Al-Akhar.

Businessman Samah Seif Al Yazel, a former diplomat, put it more colourfully: "He's been doing all this kind of blab, blab, blab. Too much talking for nothing, and the result has been all those dirty words."

"All people felt slighted by the insults the minister had hurled at many public figures and politicians," wrote Ahmed Baha Al Din, a columnist for the government-owned Al-Akhar. "His obscenities were unprecedented ... so foul and offensive that they could not be published."

Badr had accused Al Din of being in the hire of religious extremists, a group Badr attacked in a recent speech many believe finally tipped the balance in favour of his ouster.

In the speech, Badr said all Muslim fundamentalists — "one per cent of (Egypt's) population" — should be killed. What appeared to be his undoing, however, was the rest of the speech, vicious slanders of politicians, journalists and other public figures, including his cabinet colleagues.

Independent-minded columnist Mustafa Amin was the only commentator to say it wasn't Badr's language but his message that mattered.

"This is the first time in Egypt's history that a cabinet minister has threatened to exterminate half a million Egyptians," Amin wrote Friday in Al-Akhar. "The interior minister's job is to watch over Egyptians, not to kill them."

The Egyptian organisation for human rights alleged that at least one prisoner died last year under police torture. Many others suffered temporary or permanent physical damage, the report said, mainly religious activists but also labour leaders and prominent leftists, the group said.

"These claims are absolutely baseless, because prisons in Egypt have their regulations, and the prosecutors and the judiciary have the right to inspect them," Moussa, the new interior minister, told the Middle East News Agency.

Arab summit on Lebanon likely

Saud heads for US to seek support

ALGIERS, Jan 16, (Agencies): Mediators from Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, struggling to save a threatened peace plan for Lebanon, have finalised a report which could include an emergency Arab summit.

Meanwhile, Christian General Michel Aoun ordered Lebanese and foreign news media today to stop calling his rival, Elias Hrawi, "President."

An Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali told a news conference yesterday that the foreign ministers mandated by an Arab summit last May to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war would submit their peace bid to Arab heads of state.

"This report is in the framework of (last May's) Casablanca summit," Ghazali said, but he declined to give further details.

He then read two resolutions of the May summit which called for support for the Lebanese government's efforts to extend its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, and for an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon if necessary.

Ghazali said the Arab-mediated peace plan was now threatened with collapse and that the main problem was Aoun's stance.

"Unfortunately there are obstacles and problems which now block this (peace) process and threaten to destroy all that has been achieved," he said. "At the forefront of these obstacles is the position of rejection and rebellion of General Michel Aoun."

Ghazali repeated his committee's call to the Arab and international communities to do all they could to remove obstacles to the peace plan.

He also described the recent upsurge of fighting between Lebanese Shiite Muslim militias as a serious threat to the unity of Lebanon.

Ghazali ruled out any modification to the peace plan, approved in the Saudi Arabian city of Taif, saying it had been prepared after consultations with every representative Lebanese party including Aoun.

"In reality, behind this idea of modifying the Taif accord is a rejection of reforms and this is not acceptable," he said, adding that Aoun had failed to provide any alternative to

Syria denies Soviet pullout

DAMASCUS, Jan 16, (Agencies): Syria today said all reports about withdrawal of Soviet military advisers from Syria are untrue.

An informed Syrian source had said yesterday, on condition of anonymity, that the withdrawal of a number of Soviet military advisers was agreed on during a visit by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass to Moscow last month.

Responding, Information Minister Mohammed Salman said: "Some news agencies have circulated information concerned with the Soviet experts in Syria. All the talk about this subject is absolutely untrue."

The Syrian source had said Tlass negotiated the issue with members of the Soviet Union's Supreme Military Council. But the source denied press reports in Israel that the withdrawal of Soviet personnel was in the thousands.

He declined to comment on a report in a Kuwaiti newspaper that the number of Soviet military advisers had already dropped from 2,000 to just over 1,000.

Citing diplomatic sources in London, the daily said the 2,240 advisers and other military personnel in Syria 18 months ago, 1,550 had been withdrawn by the end of 1989 and another 480 were due to leave by October.

The 1989-90 Military Balance, an annual survey of global military strengths published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, puts the number of Soviet military personnel in Syria last year at 2,000.

President Hafez Al Assad has often stated his belief that to achieve a just peace in the Middle East, Syria must achieve military equality with Israel so that it can negotiate from a position of strength.

Egyptian envoy

An Egyptian diplomat flew to Damascus yesterday to search for embassy premises, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Egypt and Syria restored diplomatic relations last month after a 12-year break. Neither country paid rent for their embassies during the break and both are now looking for new premises, the officials said.

The old Syrian embassy in Cairo is now the Iraqi cultural centre.

Hussein raps Israel for shootings

AMMAN, Jan 16, (Reuters): King Hussein, in remarks quoted today, said people behind recent shootings on Jordan's ceasefire line with Israel were aiming to create tension.

"There is a new situation on the ceasefire line ... resulting from attacks aimed at creating a climate of tension," newspapers quoted Hussein as saying yesterday at a tree-planting ceremony.

"Perhaps there are aims and goals which go beyond limited operations against Jordan and there may be more than one party involved in mounting them," he said, without elaborating.

There have been several outbreaks of gunfire this month along the ceasefire line, which is normally calm despite an official state of war between Jordan and Israel.

On Jan 7, Israeli troops killed a Jordanian soldier in a gunbattle after he crossed the border in the northern area of Hamat Gader. The Jordanian army said a conscript based in the area had gone missing the previous day.

A Damascus-based Palestinian group, Fatah Uprising, claimed responsibility for what it said were commando attacks on Israeli military patrols in the same area on Jan 4 and 5.

Syria protests at cut in Euphrates water

DAMASCUS, Jan 16, (Reuters): Syria has joined Iraq in expressing strong concern to neighbouring Turkey over its diversion of the mighty Euphrates river, condemning it as a breach of international law.

An authoritative source said Turkish Ambassador Erhan Tuncel was called to the Foreign Ministry last evening to receive Syria's protest over the diversion of the Euphrates to fill Turkey's new Ataturk dam.

The source said Tuncel was told that Syria "rejected the principle of cutting the Euphrates river flow and considered it against international law."

The diversion of the waters that began on Saturday constituted an "unjustified move which would seriously affect (Syria's) drinking water supplies and electricity generation," the source said.

Iraq, which also depends on Euphrates water for irrigation and hydroelectric power, sent Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi to Ankara to express Baghdad's concern.

Iraq said on Sunday it was seeking changes in Turkey's diversion plan to reduce the damaging results for millions of its people.

But Chalabi said after meeting Turkish President Turgut Ozal yesterday that he had received assurances Turkey would give due consideration to the supply of water to neighbouring states.

Syrian officials stressed that Damascus felt Turkey's action "constituted an unjustified move which would cause ... harm to the environment of the river's water course."

Syria had kept silent so far on the Turkish plan to temporarily cut the waters of the Euphrates, first announced two months ago.



Ambassador Necati Utkan, Director General for Economic Affairs in the Turkish Foreign Ministry, answers a question while Ozden Bilen, Deputy Director General of the Turkish Water Authority, listens during a news conference at the Turkish embassy in Cairo. The two government officials are on a tour of Arab states to explain Turkey's position on the controversial Ataturk dam built on the Euphrates river. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Ban Quran in comics'

TUNIS, Jan 16, (Reuters): An Islamic body in Tunisia has called for a world-wide ban on a comic-book version of the Holy Quran on sale in France.

Representing the Quran pictorially is "an error and a heresy because it would distort the word of God," the Supreme Islamic Council said in a statement last night.

"Publication and distribution ... should be banned inside and outside the Islamic world," said the council, a consultative body appointed by the government.

The book, "If the Quran Had Been Told to Me," is by Youssef Seddik, a Tunisian living in Paris, and a French artist. It is published in Switzerland and printed in Belgium and has just gone on sale in France.

"Depicting prophets ... does not enjoy the unanimous approval of scholars of Islam," the council said.

The Algerian newspaper El Moudjahid said last week that publicity about the book was a trap to entice Muslims into condemning it. Anti-Muslim groups would then accuse Muslims of intolerance, the paper said.

It recalled the furore over the novel "The Satanic Verses" by Indian-born Briton Muslim Salman Rushdie. He remains in hiding nearly a year after the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini said he should be killed for blasphemy against Islam.

Sinai bus mishap

CAIRO, Jan 16, (AP): A bus taking Egyptians to work at a Sinai hotel on the border with Israel veered out of control and overturned today, killing two people and injuring seven, the Middle East News Agency reported.

The state-run agency said the accident occurred about 10 kms (6 miles) south of Tabā, a tourist resort at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba.

It said the bus was carrying Egyptian workers to the Hilton-Tabā Hotel from Nuweiba, a Sinai town on the western coast of the Gulf about 70 kms (44 miles) south of Tabā.

Egyptologists discover dwarves who entertained Pharaohs, wielded considerable power

GIZA, Egypt, Jan 16, (UPI): In ancient Egypt, if a man saw himself in a dream looking at a dwarf, he believed half his life would be taken away. But the recent uncovering of the statuette of a dwarf has led some Egyptologists to believe that far from bringing bad luck, dwarves entertained Pharaohs and wielded considerable power.

Egyptologists began speculating on the role of dwarves in ancient Egypt after archaeologists unearthed last week in Giza, west of Cairo, the bones and statue of a dwarf named Pr-n-ankh.

"Did ancient Egyptians believe dwarves brought bad luck, or did dwarves in fact wield considerable political clout? or both? That's a question on the lips of many Egyptologists," Mary Hollingsworth, 36, a

research student from Ithaca, New York, said in an interview yesterday.

Archaeologists are known to have unearthed only one other dwarf in Egypt, a scribe named Seneb, discovered in Giza toward the beginning of this century. But the Cairo daily Al-Ahram said German archaeologists in the 1949's discovered the tomb of a foreign dwarf apparently believed to have commanded a regiment of dwarf troops.

But the new find, a basalt statuette some 12 inches high unearthed from a sealed vault on Thursday, sheds new light on the life and position of dwarves in ancient Egypt.

Instead of depicting the dwarf as a figure of fun or bad luck to be avoided, the statuette shows Pr-n-

ankh as a companion of a Pharaoh. Hieroglyphics found in his 19-foot tomb say that Pr-n-ankh was a "close associate of the Pharaoh in the great palace."

In addition, Pr-n-ankh holds in one hand an oar, and in the other a royal mace — indicating he may have commanded the royal navy.

This has led Egyptian archaeologists to believe that dwarves played an important role in the country's ancient royal court, both entertaining Pharaohs and holding important political and military positions.

The discovery of Pr-n-ankh's statuette was made near the site of Seneb's tomb, leading archaeologists to believe they may have stumbled upon a dwarves' burial ground. Experts said the statuette belonged

to the sixth Egyptian dynasty dating to 2,200 years BC.

"We may have hit a burial ground for important dwarves in Giza," said Dr Zahi Hawass.

Mahmoud Afifi, an inspector of the national antiquities authority who found Pr-n-ankh's statuette, said nearby burial chambers contained the statues of regular-sized women who could have been the dwarf's wives.

Egyptologists said mystery still shrouds the attitude of ordinary ancient Egyptians to dwarves, but recent findings should shed more light on this. Ancient Roman and Greek writings generally depict dwarves as figures of fun, although some authors attached supernatural powers to them.

EVENTS

Indian Video Roundup

Red spells disaster

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THERE'S red on the screen, red in the ocean; red on their faces and red in our eyes as we watch some after some of the super-battle for the rights of two lovers Arjun and Pooja. Even if it is make-believe blood, it spells disaster. And that red — blood — has been spilt, all in the name of love. Ugh!

The love birds — Arjun and Pooja — are out to rewrite the history of legendary romances like Romeo and Juliet, Sohni and Mahiwari and Laila and Majnu. As fated in the story of someone named Nalin Manmohan, Arjun and Pooja are just two names long forgotten before they even claim to join the league of legends.

Under Mukul Anand's direction, the blood flows thick and red. If there was any shortage of the colour red in the film, it was completed by the carpets laid out in the courtyards and the saloons.

It's supposed to be an action film. And you won't be disappointed. From start to finish you see an action wrestling, swords crossing and blood spilling. Each character gets a fair share of the action: Vinod Khanna gets to bash up the baddies ranging from Kiran Kumar to Aditya Pancholi; Govinda gets a piece when he dances to Anand Milind's music and gets rid of Sumet Saigal and his cronies; Shakti Kapoor has plenty going for him as he curls your blood with his cold-blooded murders and Amjad Khan? He watches in silence from his wheelchair.

After seeing all that red, we go red in the face with the embarrassment: violence is not worth it, even for the sake of love, whatever that means in this film.

The filmmakers tell us that the characters are caught in the bloodiest battle of their lives because of family rivalry. Fine. Then why does Vishal (Vinod Khanna) tell us that he will wage a "manusmaram" to protect the lives of the two lovers? Perhaps, to fit in the title with the storyline.

Anyway, it is one of those films that blast into action and end with a romantic code. Many of you may even like it, but I could not stomach the gore.

Well, there are some nice characters like the police inspector played by Gulshan Grover, who switches from his normal villainy, who keeps our sanity by throwing in snippets about his love for Pooja; another likeable character is Janto (Madhuri Dixit), whose innocent capers take your mind off Aditya Pancholi's snaky eyes. And Shakti Kapoor, despite his negative character, has been shown as a man of principal.

Pyaar Ke Naam Qurban

A title like *Pyaar Ke Naam Qurban* implies romance or so it seems. We are wrong to make such assumptions. No romance and no subtlety in this movie by B. Subhash.

There are three characters: Kunwar Yeshwant Singh (Dimple), Deepika (Dimple Kapadia) and Billoo Choudhary (Mithun Chakraborty). As we go along, fourth, Gauri (Madhuri Dixit) comes along to join the circus peopled by princes, princesses and the common man.

Kunwar Yeshwant Singh belongs to a class of "rajas", who no longer have empires but rule anyway, to keep up pretences. "So what if we don't have the raj any longer, we are still the rulers," he grows. Kunwar's pet sport is chasing women into the jungle and molesting them. He takes pride in such sport. He shoots a horse who "disobeys" his impossible sister Deepika's command, and buys her a sports car instead. But he can't shoot down the car when it breaks down in the middle of the night. He sends it to a mechanic.

It is here that Billoo Choudhary makes his not too welcome entry: loud-mouthed, coarse and persuasive, he wants to tame the shrew, Deepika. She won't have anything to do with him and tells brother Kunwar to take care of Billoo. Billoo nurses the assault, and is reborn as an injured animal and with Deepika in chains takes off for the jungle. We think, all is well, and romance will blossom. It does, but then, it takes a back seat as Gauri's plight comes to the fore.

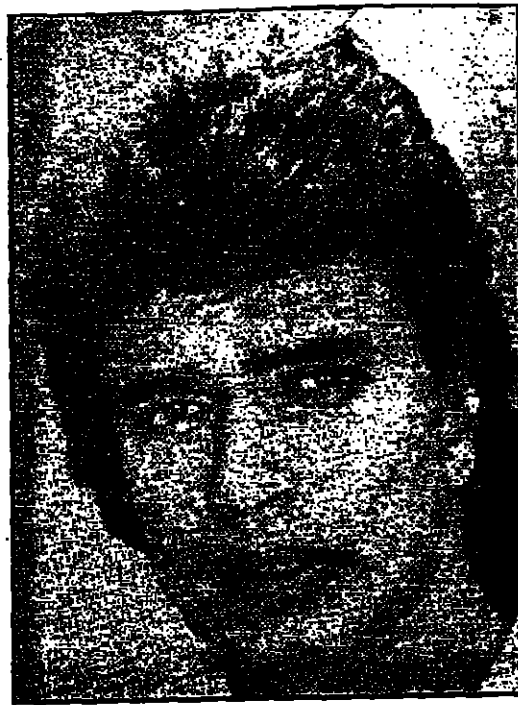
You see, Kunwar has taken a fancy to Gauri, and one dark night, she is bugged from her garage and taken to his palace, where he unceremoniously deflowers the poor, pretty girl. At this point, B. Subhash injects a dramatic about turn in the movie, and the focus shifts from Billoo and Deepika's not-so-love-dovey antics to Gauri's plea for justice in court.

Gauri, a rape-victim, is humiliated in court by the lawyer, and Kunwarji goes free. Now, it is Billoo's turn to vow revenge, and he forgets about Deepika as he goes from home and hearth to jungle and desert to weed out the evil, Kunwarji.

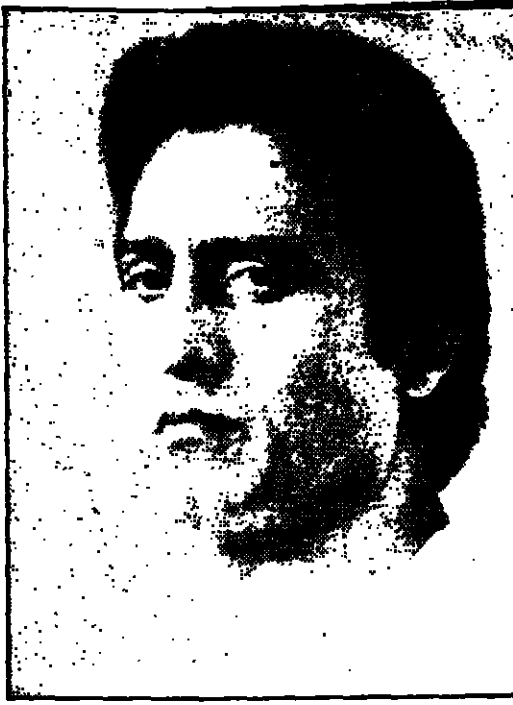
We, the viewers, are unable to understand whether Billoo is in love with Gauri or Deepika. The trouble, you see, is that he professes to love Deepika while Gauri languishes in the garage. Overnight, his loyalty and love seems to shift from one girl to another. A shifty character?

The trouble with *Pyaar Ke Naam Qurban* is that there are too many scapegoats seems to grip B. Subhash's imagination.

It seems Subhash wanted to make a movie that exposes the legal loopholes that make it difficult for women to seek justice when a crime against them has been committed. Mandakini is no Jodie Foster and *Pyaar Ke Naam Qurban* is not a film like "The Accused." So, what we have is a hotpotch of ideas and pure hype. To worsen our trauma, there is Rishi Rishi's music and Deepika's raving and ranting. And for a moment, we forget that we are supposed to see some romance in the movie. Instead of caring and sharing, there is "what him and I Love you Ma'm". So, if she doesn't return his love, can you blame Deepika? Or Gauri?



Mithun



Vinod



Madhuri



Dimple

ARTS

Photography and Oil painting classes

OIL painting classes beginning 15 January.
Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.
6 week course, once a week 4:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Iraqi ceramics

AN exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Lecture

FRED Gettings will give a public lecture on "Islamic and European Horoscopes".
The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 17th January, 1990 at 6:00 pm at the Kuwait National Museum lecture theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

SOCIAL

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soussarant Astana Dhat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funitees) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa, includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Folk songs

A CULTURAL show on popular folk songs and dances of Bangladesh organised by Nirjhar cultural group will be presented at the auditorium of Sharq Co-operative on Jan 19 at 6pm.

K.M. Shehabuddin, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait, has kindly consented to grace the occasion as the chief guest.

For details please contact: Mahe Alam 4315692 Salam 4330416 Jaina 2420711, 2409987, Mannan 4317223.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmad, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

Like a Hurricane

SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

Kuwait Singers

THE Kuwait Singers will begin rehearsals for its May concert on Monday, January 22, at 7:30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. New members are most welcome. For more information contact 4884134 or 3900922.

British Council

Return to Oz Wednesday, 17 January at 6:00 pm; Thursday, 18 January at 10:30 am, 10:50 min.

Return to the Land where the adventure began. Dorothy finds herself back in the land of her dreams and makes delightful new friends (Tik Tok, Jack Pumpkinhead and the Gump) and dangerous new enemies (creaky Wheelers, head-hunting Princess Mombi and the evil Nome King). Amazing surprises in every twist in the yellow brick road.

Ballet

STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Salwa, Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 3386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Saz sur Aawaz

SAAZ sur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhule Bisre Geet" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Funitees on Friday, Feb 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For Passes call 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 9 pm.

Hotel Ramada Al Salam

A GRAND Indian Food Festival will be held from Jan 21-26 to coincide with the Republic Day of India. Arun Budhiraja, the Ambassador of India will grace the occasion, which will be supported by various Indian companies with stalls displaying Indian products. Enchanting performances by Indian classical dancers and musicians will be the highlights. A scrumptious Indian cuisine seeks to complete a memorable event.

Raga Sharq

INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raga Sharq, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on 22nd Feb 90.

Non stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighborhood".

Highlights: Best Carnival Couple (Fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the Organisers. Hurry!

Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11th Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

SPORTS

Now at the MBH Sports Centre Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing shortly. Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah. Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making. For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Shuttle Cup

KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners.

All are cordially invited. For further information please call, Tel. 5332052 S. Rizvi.

Mitsubishi table tennis

The Mitsubishi table tennis tournament for ladies, gents and mixed doubles at the LAC badminton hall on Fri 19th Jan starting at 9.00 am. Finals of last weeks junior boys singles and doubles will also be held along with the prize giving ceremonies for all events (including junior girls). All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (3904817 after 7 pm), or Jagdish at 2433552, or Sharma at 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Kart race

KART Racing at Ahmadi on Friday, Round 7 of the Kuwait National Drivers championship plus a ladies race. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and admission is only 500 fils. Snack bar for hot food and rentakart available for test drives.

Daniella Dart

Tournament 1990 The Dart Tournament for Danes will take place at the Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht — 3727688

ext 246; or Bjorne Rasmussen — 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casmiro."

Japan film festival 'Past and Present'

ON the occasion of Japan's National Day, a Japan film festival called "Past and Present" will be held. The Festival will start at 7.30 pm daily from Jan 20 until Jan 31 at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Auditorium.

Sat. Jan "The Red Bears" (1965) Director: Akira Kurosawa. 184 minutes, monochrome.

Sun. Jan 21 "Muddy River" (1981) Director: Kohei Oguri. 105 minutes, monochrome

Mon. Jan 22 "Lost in the Wilderness" (1986) Director: Junaya Sato. 140 minutes

Tue. Jan 23 "Sanjuro" (1962) Director: Akira Kurosawa. 96 minutes, monochrome

Wed. Jan 24 "Suspicion" (1982) Director: Yoshitaro Nomura. 126 minutes

Sat. Jan 27 "The Hours of Wedlock" (1986) Director: Kichitaro Negishi. 106 minutes

Sun. Jan 28 "The Time Traveller" (1983) Director: Nobuhiko Obayashi. 104 minutes

Mon. Jan 29 "Seven Samurai" (1954) Director: Akira Kurosawa. 96 minutes, monochrome

Tue. Jan 30 "The Incident" (1978) Director: Hoshitaro Nomura. 130 minutes

Wed. Jan 31 "My Son! My Son!" (1979) Director: Keisuke Konoshita. 130 minutes

All the films will be subtitled in Arabic. No children allowed.

Mefex 10th yr promises success

MEFEX 90, the Sixth Middle East Food & Equipment Show, which is scheduled to take place at the Exhibition Centre Bahrain from 10-13 Feb 1990, marks its tenth year with a show that is representative of the new market forces at work in the Middle East.

More than 300 food companies from over 30 countries will be participating in the show which also incorporates the prestigious Salon Culinaire, a competition showcase for professionals in the industry, which is being sponsored by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation, as well as a fast-growing Food Packaging and Processing Equipment section.

The show at present has 14 Official National Groups participating in it, including groups from USA, UK, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Holland, Egypt, Germany, New Zealand and Australia. Besides these official groups, several companies are coming together from countries like France, and Singapore, said Stephen Key, chief executive of Arabian Exhibition Management, the organisers.

According to Key, this year's exhibition reflects the changing trends in the Middle East food trade with a considerable increase in the number of Middle East based companies taking part. "We have seen a significant increase in the participation of regional companies, especially from Saudi Arabia. This marks the recent move in the regional industry to emphasise manufacturing and production of food-stuffs as opposed to just importing them," he said.

However, the Middle East still represents the largest food importing market in the world and established companies will be returning to the exhibition as it represents an opportunity to meet new clients and renew trade contacts.

The organisers are expecting a significant increase in the number of visitors this year following the upward move of the regional economy and the increased participation of regional firms.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Al Jahra Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Tala Pharmacy
Al Fahad Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Qattan Pharmacy
Al Othman Street
Al Saluniyah and Al Rumeth-
eiyah
Randa Pharmacy
Saleem Al Mubarak Street
Al Fahad and Al Ahmadi
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Jleeb Al Shuyookh
Palestine Pharmacy
Main Street
Al Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
The Fourth Area

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shua Min Al Madhi: Arabic serial (part 2). 11.45 Al Waad: Beduin serial (part 3), starring Mohammed Al Abbadi, Sahar Rami, and Yousif Al Jamal
12.25 News summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher news
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite
4.45 Breen: cartoon serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children serial (part 3)
5.45 Night chemists: air-
lines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashq: historical serial (part 1), starring Tayseer Fehni, Anwar Ismael, Ahmad Maher and Saad Ardash

7.00 Varieties
7.15 Popular arts: local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Mtairi
7.45 Antiquities and Islamic arts: cultural programme (part 3)
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Television Network: local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
10.15 Ghdan Tushraqo Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 15)
11.15 Al Wahash: Arabic feature film, starring Mahmoud Al Meliji, Samiya Jamal, Anwar

Wajdi, Sameeha Ayoub and Mohammed Tawfeeq
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo. A series for children
6.30 Danger Bay. "Murder at the Aquarium". When the aquarium stages a murder mystery fundraiser, everyone is play-acting — except the uninvited guest.
7.00 International Outdoorman. "Running of the Bulls". Action-packed out-door, live-action adventures that circle the Globe, captivating the universal family audience...
7.30 Growing Pains. "Family Ties". Mike now is eighteen years old...He has planned to impose his order at home...But his father has to stop him...

8.00 News in English
8.30 Top of the Hill "You were always on My Mind". Nelly with the help of Tom Bill, the congressman attempts to prove that she belongs to an influential family...
9.30 The Science Edition. The dangers of drugs and liquor
10.00 Cine Club presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "The Gun of Navarone". Starring Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quayle. In 1943 a sabotage team was sent to destroy two giant guns on a Turkish island.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

Al Ahmadi
Arabic film
Someone to Watch over Me
Drive-In
Revenge of Nerds II
Al Firdous
Malamal
Fahad
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Paulo Roberto
Granada
License to Kill

Al Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film
PRAYERS
Fajr 5.20 am
Zohr 11.58
Asr 2.54 pm
Maghreb 5.13
Isha 6.34



Truffle season begins

EACH kilogramme of truffle was sold at KD20 at the local market yesterday, according to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna). The agency attributed this high price to the scarcity of truffle in the relevant market, clarifying 20 kilogrammes of Libyan truffles were displayed in the market only. Meanwhile, some dealers have expected that the prices will be dropped if truffles arrive from neighbouring countries, particularly after the cold and rain wave lashed the region recently.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Euphoria evaporated

Gorbachev's woes, inflation unsettle markets

LONDON, Jan 16, (Reuters): The euphoria over Eastern Europe that helped drive world stock prices to record highs in the first days of 1990 has evaporated and fears of inflation and interest rate rises are returning to haunt financial markets.

Share prices from Wall Street to London have retreated rapidly from all-time peaks scaled at the start of the New Year and bond markets have taken a pounding. Economists say a fall had been almost inevitable as the prospect of full-scale fighting among rival ethnic groups in the Soviet Union dampened optimism about the sweeping reform process in Eastern Europe and brought investors back to ground.

"The markets had indulged in a bit too much euphoria about Gorbachev," said Robin Marshall of Chase Investment Bank

in London. "It was always likely there would be a setback."

Economists are not forecasting a world-wide stock crash. They believe the longer term prospects for the world economy and company profits are still generally sound. But the new market mood of realism has been highly contagious and many investors are moving swiftly out of stocks and bonds into cash or bank deposits.

Economists say Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's uphill struggle to reform a sick economy and contain nationalist tensions has put the revolution in Eastern Europe into a more sober perspective — prospects for Western business are huge but there will be no quick profits and many a political pitfall.

Carl Hahn, head of West German carmaker Volkswagen, said after meeting East German

businessmen last weekend that it could take five years before joint venture companies made a profit.

On the economic front, the mood too has changed as investors focus on events closer to home. A mixture of inflationary wage rises in Europe, rising energy costs and excess domestic demand have dashed hopes of an early cut in world interest rates.

In Europe and Japan, where the Tokyo stock market's Nikkei Average plunged 1.8 per cent today, the fear is that interest rates may even have to rise further.

"We are not likely to see demand in Europe weaken and allow interest rates and inflation to fall," said David Mars, European economist at Warburg Securities in London.

In the United States, a cold

Economy to pick up steam

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16, (Kuna): Three economists have expressed optimism that the global economy will see a period of renewed prosperity in the 1990s, breaking aside fears of a stagnation or a serious recession.

The three — Prof Hugh Patrick of Columbia University in New York, Dr Hadi Soemarto, the executive director of Indonesia's Centre for Strategic and International Studies and Prof Toshiyuki Yamazawa of Hitotsubashi University of Japan — were responding to questions by the director-general of the Malaysian Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Dr Noordin Sopiee, who chaired the ISIS-RTM forum aired last night.

The forum touched on a wide range of international economic issues, including the changing world political and economic scenario likely to result from developments in Eastern Europe, Third World debt, new growth centres and Asia-Pacific economic co-operation.

Will the world experience growth, stagnation or recession? Dr Noordin said: "There are so many things that appear to be moving politically and economically which may promise us a decade which may in fact be much better than the 1980s."

Prof Yamazawa feels upbeat about world economic prospects based on his analysis of the US, Japanese and European economies.

"I don't see any very serious stagnation or a recession in the next year," he said.

On the political changes in Europe and whether Japan's increased role in Europe will divert its official development assistance or investments away from Asia, Prof Patrick said: "There is enough Japanese money to go around."

Prof Yamazawa said Japan's direct investment in countries in ASEAN (the grouping of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei) after five to six years.

snap has pushed up food and fuel prices and cast doubt on the US

Central Bank authority's ability to cut interest rates quickly des-

pite a slack economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average of Wall Street shares closed nearly 20 points lower on Monday after Friday's 71-point plunge. It also fell sharply at the opening today and is now about 5.5 per cent down on the record closing high of 2,810.15 hit on January 2.

The robustness of the industrial world's economy, now in an eight year of growth, combined with the prospect of new business in Eastern Europe, should underpin corporate profits and bolster stock markets in the longer term, say economists.

But in the short term, they have lost their poise.

London has now retreated about five per cent from a record high of 2,463.7 on the FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares on January 3. A shock 2.2 per cent

rise in December retail sales reported on Monday helped send long-dated government bonds down to three-year lows and convinced economists that base interest rates, currently 15 per cent, will not be relaxed before summer.

Economists say British Finance Minister John Major, now preparing his first budget for March, may try to tighten fiscal policy to dampen consumer demand. But markets are worried wage negotiations hovering around 10 per cent will boost inflation.

Frankfurt, where optimism over new business opportunities with Eastern Europe drove the Dax stock index to an all-time high of 776.71 on January 12, has been in retreat this week on reports of violence in the Soviet

republic of Azerbaijan. "The euphoria of the past weeks has swung over to real fear," said stock trader Klaus Heintzen at Bankhaus Bethmann in Frankfurt. "Our East European bubble has burst."

Today's market closed 2.7 per cent down on Friday's record and economists believe the central Bundesbank, also with one eye on wage bargaining, may tighten interest rates in coming months.

William Ledward, economist at Nomura Research Institute in London, said he would not rule out a full percentage point rise in West German interest rates — the key discount rate is currently six per cent — by the end of March.

Such a move could also trigger an interest rate rise in France, where shares slid today by more than two per cent.

Oil strike signals problems for Mello

SAO PAULO, Jan 16, (Reuters): An indefinite national oil strike began today in Brazil, ending months of labour calm and suggesting problems ahead for President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello.

"The country has only five days' supplies of petroleum derivatives such as petrol, according to the state-controlled oil company Petrobras whose 60,000 employees are on strike for a 64.8 per cent pay rise. Petrobras has offered a 21.47 per cent increase.

The strike signals the end of an effective truce on the labour front which had been a prominent feature late last year. Unions refrained from strikes during the presidential election campaign so as not to hurt the chances of socialist candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Lula lost the December 17 election to Mello, a conservative populist who at age 40 is the youngest elected president in Brazilian history.

The oil strike could be a forerunner of the problems facing Collor when he takes office on March 15.

Inflation last year was a record 1,765 per cent and Mello's central task is to try to put the Southern Hemisphere's biggest economy back on a more orthodox track.

No details of Mello's economic plans have emerged and the Brazilian media, hungry for information, relentlessly pursue his chief economic adviser, Zelia Cardoso de Mello.

World Bank team to visit Egypt

CAIRO, Jan 16, (Kuna): A World Bank delegation is due there this week for talks with the concerned officials to break the deadlock in the negotiations between the two sides over Egypt's economic reform programme.

Official economic sources revealed that negotiations were stalled by conflicting viewpoints on the government's policy toward the public sector, interest rates and rectification of imports.

If an agreement was reached, the World Bank would extend to Egypt \$800 million in support of the balance of payments in addition to assisting Egypt in concluding loan agreements with rich countries to finance the country's development projects.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 16, (Reuters): The market closed weaker after nervous trading, pulled down by a heavy fall in Tokyo.

All ordinaries index fell 6.3 to 1,675.4.

TOKYO: Worries about falling bond prices intensified, sending the Nikkei index plunging more than 800 points before a partial recovery at the close. The index ended at 36,850.36, down 666.41 or 1.81 per cent.

HONG KONG: The Hang Seng index tumbled 34.90 to close at 2,751.79 in response to sharp declines in Wall Street and Tokyo.

BANGKOK: Share prices retreated in afternoon to close broadly lower in line with heavy losses on the Tokyo bourse. The Straits Time index fell 13.04 to end at 1,512.50.

BOMBAH: Shares fell for the second day after heavy losses in the budget for fiscal 1990/91, ending March.

FRANKFURT: Shares moved more than 700 points amid concern that reforms in Eastern Europe could come to a halt if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is forced into office. The Dax index of 30 blue chips fell 52.93 to close at 1,788.68.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed lower on profit taking after the market took its lead from weak German shares. The SPI index fell 17.4 points to 1,122.5.

Global energy studies launched

Yamani sees risk of new oil crisis

LONDON, Jan 16, (Reuters): Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's ex-minister of petroleum, resurfaced on the world oil scene yesterday fearful of another energy crisis and founding an organisation which he said could help try to avert it.

Yamani, 56, said he had set up the centre for global energy studies with an office in London's fashionable Knightsbridge as a forum that might help bring energy officials of producer nations, big oil companies and consumer governments together.

Such a three-way dialogue was needed in part because Arab and other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries might not themselves be able to raise the money needed to restore their oil output capacity to meet rising demand.

"I would like to say that if no action is taken now, the world may well be heading towards another damaging oil crisis," Yamani said in a speech.

As an example of the problem, he cited reports that it would cost

Saudi Arabia \$30 billion to get its output capacity back to 10 million barrels daily.

Industry sources say it is now around 6.5 million.

Much Opec capacity rusted away in idle oil fields during the glut of the mid-1980s when sky-high prices depressed world demand. Weaker prices have prompted a recovery since then and prices have headed back up — by 25 per cent since last autumn.

Yamani said Opec producers may need the expertise and perhaps the investment of Western oil companies. Consumer governments might possibly back or even provide loans.

Ex-British Prime Minister Edward Heath is the governing body of Yamani's new, non-profit making study centre.

An advisory council including ex-chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Kuwait Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker and Soviet academician Alexan-

der Arbatov.

The centre will hold seminars for select participants and circulate in-depth reports. Two have already been commissioned, on East Europe and on the production capacity of the Gulf.

Yamani, who has substantial private means, said finance was no problem. A bi-monthly report would be sold on subscription. An initial staff of five had been hired.

Saudi Arabia's oil minister from 1962 until 1986, Makkah-born Yamani became for millions of people the embodiment of Arab oil power and the chief architect of dramatic changes in the global economy caused by the oil price shocks of the 1970s.

He predicted ahead of most pundits that these would cause a glut. Western oil executives say King Fahd relieved him of his job when prices sank too low — Yamani favoured keeping them down in a bid to make non-Opec producers cut output.

New schedules on Mideast routes

BA to introduce new aircraft

BRITISH Airways will begin introducing Boeing 767 aircraft on Middle East routes from the middle of 1990. At the same time the route structure will alter with more flights originating in the region and fewer flights transiting enroute to destinations in the Far East.

"We expect to begin flying the new, extended range Boeing 767-300 aircraft in July," explains Tony Brodfoot, British Airways general manager, Middle East.

"The investment in the new aircraft is considerable. It underlines our commitment to the region as a whole and to providing the best product for our customers," he said.

Four aircraft will be progressively introduced on flights to Jeddah, Riyadh, Dhahran, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Muscat. At the same time British Airways will begin phasing out the Lockheed TriStar aircraft currently used in the region.

The new 767 will be introduced at a time when the airline is not only restructuring its routes, but also reinforcing its commitment to the Middle East by

introducing more flights that originate in the region.

From the start of the summer schedule at the end of March the majority of flights will originate in the region. This arises from the airline's introduction of long-range 747-400 aircraft, flying non-stop between London and the Far East without needing to re-fuel in the Gulf.

"Passengers will notice a definite on-board service improvement as a result," says Tony Brodfoot. "Aircraft originating in the region will have been freshly cleaned, service times will become more convenient and regular, punctuality will be improved and we will be able to offer greater capacity and better connections through London to the rest of our network worldwide."

Some flights will continue to fly through the region. For example, the Seychelles and Mauritius will still be reached via Bahrain. Dubai will continue to be the transit point for Hong Kong and a new extension will mean that Manila will be added to the flight twice a week. Flights to Delhi, Madras and Karachi will also continue to operate from Kuwait.

Jordan phosphate exports boom

AMMAN, Jan 16, (Reuters): Jordan, the world's third biggest rock phosphate exporter, earned a record \$434 million from its highest-ever exports of the fertiliser base last year.

"1989 was a record year from all angles," Wasef Azar, managing director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), told Reuters in an interview.

He said the company would increase earnings this year and hoped to boost exports to Eastern European countries trying to implement reforms that would lead to freer markets.

"We have to see what happens in eastern Europe. We could have a better situation there," Azar said.

The phosphate industry, ely by rising world prices, is a bright spot in Jordan's recession-hit economy.

Central Bank figures show that sales of phosphate rock and fertiliser derivatives produced by JPMC accounted for 44 per cent of Jordanian exports in the first eight months of 1989.

East Germany remains cautious on Western investment

BONN, Jan 16, (Reuters): East German Economics Minister Christa Luft said today her country would be flexible about Western investment but made clear it would not embrace capitalism wholeheartedly.

Blinking under the floodlights as she addressed a news conference during her first official visit to Bonn, Luft firmly rejected the idea that East Germany's economy could fall completely into private hands.

"Key industries will remain the property of the people," she said, adding that this would cover postal services, communications, power stations and heavy industry.

Luft said progress was made in her talks with Economics Minister Helmut Hauss-

mann on how investment and trade could be stimulated between the two Germanys.

"We have come out of the verbal stage and into the very concrete," she told reporters.

She said Bonn and East Berlin had agreed to form two groups of experts, one dealing with a planned investment treaty between the two Germanys, the other examining how West German aid could be used to promote investment.

Bonn has promised East Germany more than 10 billion marks (\$6 billion) in investment credits and export credit guarantees.

Luft said Bonn and East Berlin would also look at how bilateral trade could be liberalised, with an emphasis on getting smaller firms involved.

Trade is largely restricted at the moment to East Germany's large state-owned groups and some of West Germany's biggest industries.

West German businessmen are critical of East Berlin's plans to restrict Western holdings to 49 per cent unless it deems the investment is in the national interest. But at the news conference Luft indicated that East Germany would be relaxed about applying this rule.

"Exemptions to the rule are possible," she said. Small and medium-sized firms and companies investing in technological know-how will be exempt under the planned joint venture law.

Parts of the engineering industry could be open to private investment and she did

Tensions send Bonn shares tumbling

Dollar gains

LONDON, Jan 16, (Reuters): West German shares plunged today on fears about rising violence in the Soviet Union but an early rally by the dollar faded by the end of European trading.

West German economists said the markets had been unnerved by the possibility that the pace of East European reforms could slow if Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's rule was cut short by Soviet tensions running out of control.

Fighting raged today between Armenians and Azerbaijanis on the border between their southern Soviet republics and troops sent in by Moscow seemed unable to end the violence.

"When you see bad news out of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe every time you put on the television, you start to get really worried," said Klaus Heintzen at Bankhaus Bethmann as Frankfurt's Dax share index ended 52.93 points down at 1,788.68.

But he cautioned: "The point is that even if Gorbachev is ousted, the process of reform in Eastern Europe is well enough underway that it cannot be reversed."

Dealers said the short-term future of the West German's shares and currency, which have risen sharply on a belief that liberalisation in Eastern Europe would be good for the Bonn economy, would depend on further developments in the East.

"There is quite a bit of potential for further violence in East Germany," said one trader after protesters sacked the security police headquarters in East Berlin last night. "We're talking about 40 years of pent-up rage and dissatisfaction."

A currency dealer in Frankfurt added: "We are watching the news rather than the economic data."

The dollar had opened sharply higher as investors sought refuge in the US currency, a traditional haven for investments in times of trouble.

The Dow was 5.97 points lower at 2,663.40 by midday in New York. Gold lost early gains as the dollar strengthened and finished only slightly up in London at \$413.20 an ounce against yesterday's close of \$411.75.

3 crew missing

Oil tanker sinks

BAHRAIN, Jan 16, (Reuters): A burning oil and chemical tanker sank in the Red Sea with three crew missing after rescue ships saved 31 crewmen, a shipping source in Jeddah said today.

The source said the 21,032-tonne Saudi tanker, the Raad Al Bakry VIII, broke up and sank on Monday near port Sudan in Sudanese territorial waters several hours after it caught fire.

"The tanker is finished — it split into two pieces and sank," he said. He had no information on what caused the fire aboard the vessel owned by Bakri Navigation Co. Ltd of Jeddah.

Lloyds Shipping Intelligence said earlier four ships had answered a distress signal from the vessel, which was sailing from Jeddah with a full load of bunker fuel for Port Sudan.

Eleven people were plucked from a lifeboat by one ship and transferred to the captain and other crew members aboard the tug Sawakin, Lloyds said.

Not rule out foreign firms taking complete ownership of East German companies. "Let us get started. I don't believe in those who say never," she said.

Western experts estimate that only two per cent of East Germany's industry is privately owned, with East Berlin discouraging small firms by not allowing them to employ more than 10 people and by imposing heavy taxes.

Bonn has been pressing East Germany to encourage small firms, which it believes hold the key to reforming the over-centralised economy.

But Bonn officials suspect Luft is having difficulties with hardline colleagues who only want Western investment to rescue, rather than change, East Germany's economy.



Stock traders wave finger signs on the trading floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange as prices dropped more than 800 points in late afternoon trade. Prices fell 804.28 to 36,712.49 after plummeting 653.36 on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bond share prices dive

TOKYO, Jan 16, (Reuters): Plunging bond prices sent the main Tokyo stock market index down over 800 points before a partial recovery at the close, while the dollar rose steadily to firmer.

The key 225-share Nikkei Average plunged 666.41 points or 1.78 per cent to close at 36,850.36 after falling 653.36 on Friday. Financial markets in Japan were closed yesterday for a national holiday.

"Finally the market is getting people seriously afraid," said Brad Basser, manager of institutional equity sales at Barclays De Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan).

The Nikkei drop marks the sixth biggest one-day fall in its history. It also fell below the 37,000 benchmark, a cause of alarm for some traders but not for others.

"Technically we had been looking at 37,000 as a significant number but now we're gazing further downward, maybe 36,500 to 36,700," said Basser.

Some brokers said the drop today, and the market slump since this year's trading began on Jan 4, is not so

alarming given the dramatic rise in December. The index had soared 1,647.08 points or 4.42 per cent last month, largely because of feverish index-linked buying.

"People are definitely beginning to invest more on fundamentals now," said Warren Primhak, a trader at Baring Securities (Japan). But a gust of negative incentives, including sinking bond prices, a weakened yen and domestic and international political uncertainties has blown the market back beyond a mere correction, some brokers said.

The yen bond market's woes started in the United States on Friday, with news of a larger-than-expected 0.7 per cent rise in producer prices in December. That quashed hopes of further easing in US monetary policy for the time being, hurting treasury bond prices and keeping an upward trend under the dollar.

In addition, retail sellers are emerging in more significant numbers in the yen bond market, as the inverted yield curve puts more pressure on banks in particular.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT Corrigendum

Reference: Announcement for subscription in Treasury Bills which appeared in the Arab Times on Saturday, Jan 13, 1990.

1. Instead of "For Subscription in Issue No. (85) for Treasury Bills Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987" the correct wording should have read "For Subscription in Treasury Bills Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987."

2. Under the amount of denominations the following line was missed: "In compliance with the rules and regulations mentioned below."

Any inconvenience to our clients is regretted.

Japanese support sought

BUDAPEST, Jan 16, (Reuters): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, ending a 10-day European tour in Budapest, today discussed with Hungarian leaders how Japan could support Hungary's return to democracy at a time of economic crisis.

The Hungarian news agency MTI said Hungarian Premier Miklos Nemeth was seeking more Japanese investment and favourable terms for a \$500 million credit package offered by Tokyo.

Conditions for the three-year loan have yet to be fixed, but Japanese officials have said the annual interest rate was likely to be 2.9 per cent.

Burdened with a hard currency debt of about \$20 billion, Hungary is struggling to stay solvent while building a market economy to replace the centralised planning set up during 40 years of communist rule.

At a welcoming banquet for Kaifu on Monday, Nemeth said: "We would like Japan to accept a role in Hungary commensurate with its international political, economic and financial weight and to actively support our endeavours."

KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, Jan 16, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dollar interest rates remained steady in a thin and tight market today, continuing a trend seen during the past few days.

Dealers reported business in the overnight at 8-1/4, then 8-3/8 per cent. Spot, next, one-week and the one to three-month maturities were quoted steady at 8-1/2, 1/4 per cent.

Six-months was also barely changed at 8-7/16, 1/4. There were no quotes for nine-months to one-year.

The Central Bank adjusted its dollar to exchange rate, from 2.29170/80 to 2.29150/60, then 2.29170/80 to 2.29125/55 on Monday.

Commercial banks quoted spot rates of 0.29200/25.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits remained steady in very quiet trade today, with no fresh factors to give the market direction.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 16, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

| | Buying | Selling |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| US dollar | 0.29125 | 0.29240 |
| Sterling | 0.48260 | 0.48384 |
| DM | 0.17071 | 0.17184 |
| Sw. Fr. | 0.191674 | 0.192812 |
| F. Fr. | 0.02028 | 0.02046 |
| IL. riyal | 0.0002290 | 0.0002310 |
| Yen | 0.001996 | 0.002009 |
| Bah. din. | 0.772443 | 0.773503 |
| UAE Dir. | 0.070273 | 0.070629 |
| S. riyal | 0.077625 | 0.077994 |
| Q. riyal | 0.079969 | 0.080373 |
| O. riyal | 0.756198 | 0.759875 |

Interest rates

KUWAIT, Jan 16, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

| Period | Bid | Offered |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 month | 8-5/16 | 8-9/16 |
| 3 months | 8-3/16 | 8-9/16 |
| 6 months | 8-3/16 | 8-1/2 |
| 1 year | 8-1/8 | 8-7/16 |

Exchange rates

KUWAIT, Jan 16, (Kuna): Following are the exchange rates of local currencies against the Kuwaiti dinar as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

| | Indian rupee | 0.017340 |
|--|------------------|----------|
| | Sri Lankan rupee | 0.007380 |
| | Pakistani rupee | 0.013750 |
| | Bangladesh taka | 0.008980 |
| | US dollar | 0.292300 |
| | Pound sterling | 0.485500 |
| | UAE dirham | 0.079550 |
| | Deutsche mark | 0.172050 |
| | Japanese yen | 0.002015 |

Monetary policy expected to remain relatively tight

This is the second part of the article 'American overseas investment earnings dip'. The first part appeared on Tuesday, Jan 16.

Monetary growth has been well controlled in recent months allowing it to meet the 1989 target for M3 growth of "about 5 per cent after 3 years of overshooting. A similar target has been set for 1990.

Both the trade surplus narrowed in October from September.

US dollar

The dollar ended December near its lows for the year against a seemingly invincible DM after declining nearly 10 pence during the month. The dollar performance has been unusual because it has fallen against the DM while giving no ground against the yen despite the BOJ's official discount rate increase.

The dollar regained some vigour on the Panama invasion but the US involvement in the conflict seemed to dull the dollar's lustre as a "safe haven". A 20 per cent jump in the October trade gap and a decline in the PPI dampened the dollar further as markets focused on domestic economic weakness.

The Federal Reserve move to ease credit, pushing the Federal Funds rate down to 8-1/4 per cent only served to emphasize the existing pattern of weakness versus the DM and strengthen the yen.

Yen

The yen's performance during December has continued to be generally weak. It has weakened versus the DM from 80.22 to 85.07 and against sterling from 223.97 to 231.74 between the beginning and end of the month.

Against the dollar it was generally steady to soft, despite a half point increase in the discount rate specifically aimed at strengthening it.

The general outlook for the yen remains weak until the February elections are over. However, the rate rise has meant that the likelihood of a dollar above 150 yen is now much reduced.

D-Mark

The DM has emerged as the world's strongest currency in recent weeks and its outlook remains favourable although markets may occasionally take a breather. The DM has so far been supported by firming German interest rates and the prospects for German growth that the changes in E. Europe are bringing.

Bush to propose tax-free accounts

Move to encourage more savings

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (AP): President George Bush's administration is getting ready to offer a new enticement to encourage Americans to be more thrifty, hoping to boost the country's low savings rate.

The administration will ask Congress to create a new "family savings account" that would allow people to earn tax-free interest and dividends on money that is put away for a specified number of years, administration officials said.

These officials, who spoke on condition that their names not be used, said the savings accounts would be part of the president's 1991 budget, due to be released on Jan 29, and would also be featured in Bush's State of the Union address to Congress on Jan 31.

The administration is touting the proposal as a key to bolstering the coun-

try's lagging international economic fortunes, by increasing the pool of money available for investment and thus lowering the costs US businesses must pay to expand and modernize.

However, many private economists remain sceptical, saying while the proposal would be a popular tax-break for the middle class, it would do little to boost overall savings.

"Our past experience shows that these accounts don't do very much good in boosting savings," said David Wyss, an economist with DRI-McGraw Hill, a private economic consulting firm. "The people who will take advantage of them would have saved anyway."

Unlike existing individual retirement accounts, taxpayers would not be able to deduct their annual contributions from their taxable income. But the interest and

dividends would accumulate tax-free. At the end of the required holding period, the accumulated savings could be withdrawn and spent without any tax bite from Uncle Sam.

Sources said the administration was still mulling how long a period to require. Seven years was mentioned as the most likely choice, although there was some sentiment for a longer period, possibly 10 years.

The new account has been promoted within the administration by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, whose department has been studying ways to boost America's competitive standing, noting that Americans managed to save only 4.4 per cent of their after-tax income in 1988, just one-fourth of the Japanese savings rate.

"This is a straightforward effort to try to

change behaviour," said Sidney Jones, assistant treasury secretary for tax policy. "It is a very simple concept, very understandable and very forthright."

The administration's plan, once it is unveiled, will compete for support with a rival plan pushed by Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, an opposition Democrat who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Bentsen's plan would expand the coverage of the current IRAs, or individual retirement accounts.

All workers were allowed fully deductible IRAs before passage of the 1986 tax overhaul. That law made them available only to workers not covered by a company pension and to covered workers with incomes under \$25,000 and couples under \$40,000. Partial deductions are allowed couples with incomes under \$50,000 and individuals with incomes under \$35,000.

Tokyo market open to Gulf investment

Plans to expand refining and retail oil market

ABU DHABI, Jan 16, (Reuters): Gulf states are welcome to invest in Japan's expanding refining and retail oil market, a senior Japanese trade official said.

"There is no obstacle from our part for oil investments by Gulf States," Masaji Yamamoto, the senior energy official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, told Reuters.

He was speaking on Monday after a five-day tour of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to discuss long-term supplies of crude oil to Japan, which imports two-thirds of its needs from the Gulf.

Yamamoto said investments by Gulf states were welcome but since Japan was a free-market economy, they should negotiate

with oil companies on a commercial basis.

"But the Japanese market is very competitive. It is difficult to make money out of those investments because labour is very expensive," Yamamoto added.

Japan has previously discouraged foreign investment in its retail oil market to protect domestic refiners but now plans to let overseas concerns buy shares. Industry analysts say Japan in return is looking for supply guarantees.

Yamamoto said Japan would like long-term supplies but there were no negotiations on specific plans during his tour.

He said he had held talks in Riyadh and Kuwait about extending the concession rights of the

Arabian Oil Company, which produces crude in the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He did not elaborate.

Production rights of the AOC, 80 per cent owned by Japanese concerns and with a capacity of about 500,000 barrels per day, end by the year 2000.

Yamamoto said Senior officials from Japan and the six-nation Gulf co-operation Council will meet in Riyadh next month to discuss economic co-operation and investment, including in the oil sector.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer will travel to Japan on January 25 on a private visit. He is expected to meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Japanese oil officials said.

Meanwhile, Japan's domestic telecom giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. said today it will issue its second European currency unit notes totalling 150 million ECU (about \$178 million) on the London Stock Exchange later this month.

The company said an agreement for the issue will be signed with lead manager Swiss Bank Corporation investment banking Jan 24.

Under the agreement, the five-year notes with an issue price of 101.875 per cent, will have a coupon rate of 10 per cent, yielding 9.512 per cent, the company said.

It will be the company's second ECU note issue since its privatisation in April 1985.

American mutual fund assets top \$1 trillion

NEW YORK, Jan 16, (Reuters): Assets held by US mutual funds have topped \$1 trillion, more than 10 times the amount entrusted to the small investor's favourite vehicle a decade ago, the Investment Company Institute said today.

Mutual funds, in which more than 30 million Americans have money, boomed as investors rushed to get a foothold in financial markets but wanted a professional to make the crucial buy-and-sell decisions.

The National Mutual Fund Association said the record total was set to rise further as more Americans aim to cut the risk of investing by locking their cash in long-term pooled funds.

Fund managers pool resources and switch them from market to market — from stocks to government bonds to currency and commodity futures. This diversity cuts risk, but the investor is charged an annual fee, about equal to one per cent of the assets, for the professional management.

The institute said the \$1 trillion in assets was held by more than 3,000 stock, bond and money market funds.

Meanwhile ten months after US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady unveiled his plan to solve the world debt crisis, his goal of cutting debt in the Third World has fallen short of the mark.

Although Brady has called for cutting the developing world's \$1.3 trillion debt by 20 per cent, only two countries, Mexico and Philippines, have reached tentative agreements under the plan. A third, Costa Rica, is in negotiations.

The hard-fought Mexican accord, hammered out over several months, reduces payments on part of its debt, but does little to cut into Mexico's \$100 billion, in foreign debt.

Brady's plan basically seeks to persuade commercial banks to write off part of their debts in return for partial official guarantees on the loans that remain.

A fund official has said Poland, among other Eastern European countries, could develop its own Brady-type debt plan.

A success Bourse hours extended

FRANKFURT, Jan 16, (Reuters): West Germany's eight stock exchanges yesterday started opening for three hours each trading day instead of two as part of a campaign to counter competition from foreign bourses.

Although demand for West German stocks has surged since the opening of East German borders last November, the exchanges have been struggling to hold onto their own business.

Nearly one third of all turnover in West German blue chip shares is transacted not in Frankfurt or Hamburg but in London.

Frankfurt bank Georg Hauck Und Sohn said in its latest report that the extension of bourse hours "should lead to a further strengthening of the West German stock market."

Michael Waldeck, managing director of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, the largest West German bourse, termed the first day of extended hours a success.

Biggest poultry eaters

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, (AP): The world's biggest beef eaters continue to be in Argentina, but when it comes to poultry no one can hold a chicken leg to the Americans.

Preliminary forecasts by the Agriculture Department also show that Hungary will retain the world's per capita pork-eating crown in 1990, while New Zealand continues leading the lamb-and-mutton flock.

The figures were compiled by the Department's Foreign Agriculture Service, based on estimated 1990 production of red meat and poultry. Although the statistics are not true "world" figures, these leading producing countries were included in the various categories.

Weights of the red meats were expressed in "carcass weight" equivalents before slaughtered animals are carved into retail cuts. The poultry weights were in "ready to cook" equivalents, which still includes bone.

percentage point was taken to contain domestic inflationary pressures and, to prevent significant weakening of the yen against the US dollar.

It was aimed primarily at containing creeping price inflation, particularly for labour and land. By raising the discount rate, the central bank aims to discourage spending by making borrowing more expensive.

Higher Japanese interest rates would tend to make yen denominated investments relatively more attractive and could trigger a flow of international capital into the yen that would push the yen's rate higher against other currencies, in particular the dollar.

Immediately after the discount rate was boosted, Japanese banks said they would raise the long-term lending rate for their best customers to 6.8 per cent.

Further ahead, during the first quarter of 1990, monetary policy is expected to remain relatively tight in order to restrain money supply growth and bear down on inflation psychology ahead of the spring pay settlements.

As for UK, since the last interest rate rise on Oct 5, the effective rate has fallen by almost 5-1/2 per cent, with declines of 8 per cent against the DM and 2 per cent against the dollar. The effective index is some 1.1 per cent below its level at the start of 1989. UK economy moving perilously close to recession, with non-oil GDP growth at 0.7 per cent, recession is quite likely in the first half of 1990.



Nemat Salem honoured

Nemat Salem, a sales executive with British Airways in Cairo, has received the airline's top sales award for the summer 1989 season. She was chosen for this honour from 362 British Airways sales executives world-wide. According to Nigel Page, British Airways regional sales manager, Nemat received the award, "for her overall excellence of work and for her dedication to gaining business for British Airways in Cairo." Picture shows Nemat receiving her award as top sales representative from Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways deputy chairman and chief executive.

UK exports to Gulf keep rising

Power show

UK exports to the six GCC states are rising and the British Minister of State for Trade, Lord Trefgarne predicted yesterday that the trend will continue. Figures for the first six months of last year show that UK exports to all the GCC states totalled £1,699 million, 20 per cent up on the same period in 1988. The bulk of the exports, between 80 and 85 per cent, comprised machinery and transport equipment.

The figures were revealed following an impromptu press conference given by the minister after he visited Middle East Electricity '90 — the main showcase for the Gulf power industry — at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Lord Trefgarne toured the British Pavilion at the show, where 42 UK companies led by the British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers Association are exhibiting. He was accompanied by the UAE Minister for Water and Electricity, Humaid bin Nasser Al Owais.

The minister, who is on a four-day visit to the UAE, has been having talks with top officials.

Lord Trefgarne praised the show — organised by Fairs & Exhibition of London — the largest in its ten-year history with 122 companies from 21 countries taking part.

"Participation in exhibitions like this is extremely worthwhile," said the minister. "I know there are major plans in the Gulf for enhancing and expanding the electricity supply systems and I hope British firms will be able to play a major role in them."

"For instance, one of the exhibitors, NEI Reyrolle, is confident of getting a major share of a large switchgear contract which is currently under tender in the UAE," he added.

Bombay shares

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Asia Paint | 247.50 | 246.25 | 247 | M&E Kases | 17 | 16.25 | 17 |
| Atlas Corp | 42 | 41 | 43 | Mad Coats | 112.50 | 110 | 112 |
| Auto Corp | 60 | 55 | 57.50 | Mahindra | 85 | 85 | 85 |
| Nat Index | 425.71 | 425 | 419.84 | Mess Share | 18.15 | 18 | 18 |
| Beja Auto | 400 | 395 | 410 | Mico | 1060 | 1060 | 1040 |
| Bar Rayon | 775 | 777.50 | 772.50 | Milkfood | 250 | 242.50 | 250 |
| Blow Plast | — | — | — | Modi | 57.50 | 55 | 57.50 |
| Bom Dye | 219.50 | 223 | 221 | MRF Ltd | 270 | — | — |
| BK Bond | 104 | 100 | 103 | Mnk Iron | 145 | 143 | 144 |
| Burr Wei | 92.50 | 85 | 90 | Nocil | 1520 | 1490 | 1480 |
| Cashmere | — | — | — | Nat Org | — | — | — |
| Can Enka | 3350 | 3325 | 3325 | Nippon | 57 | 51 | 53.50 |
| Cen Sps | 2720 | 2710 | 2680 | Orkay | 19 | 18.75 | 18.75 |
| Colgate | 191.25 | 191.25 | 188.75 | Oswal Agro | 49 | 48 | 48.50 |
| Crompt Gr | — | 930 | 920 | Peico | — | — | — |
| DCM | 17 | 16 | 17 | Pfizer | 102.50 | 105 | 98 |
| Deep Fert | 32 | 31.50 | 31.25 | Ponds | 220 | 215 | 212.50 |
| Dunlop | 65 | 65 | 66 | Pratt Auto | 64.50 | 66 | 65.50 |
| El Hotels | 64.50 | 65 | 66 | Ranbaxy | 91 | 91 | 90 |
| Escorts | 85 | 84.50 | 84 | Ray Wool | 76 | 73 | 74 |
| BSE Index | 780.34 | 763.55 | 763.55 | Reckitt | 235 | 232.50 | 235 |
| Eskayev | 155 | 155 | 155 | Reliance | 79 | 78.75 | 79 |
| Essar Sps | 35 | 35 | 32 | Reliance | 93.50 | 93 | 90 |
| Forbes | 117 | 116.25 | 111.25 | Shaw Wall | — | — | — |
| Food Sps | 51.25 | 51.25 | 52.50 | Shree Cen | — | — | — |
| Gandhi | 45 | 45.50 | 45 | Shree Fib | 62.50 | 60 | 60 |
| GNFC | 117.50 | 117 | 115 | Shree Steel | 112 | 111 | 112 |
| Grain | 121.50 | 121 | 120 | SKF | 1500 | 1500 | 1510 |
| GE Sps | 50.75 | 50.50 | 50.25 | Spic | 58.50 | 58 | 57.50 |
| GSFC | 175 | 172.50 | 171.25 | St Mills | 70 | 69 | 68.50 |
| Gul Aidi | 84.50 | 82 | 82.50 | Tata Oil | 134 | 133.50 | 132 |
| Gul Heavy | 18 | 17.50 | 16.75 | Tata Chem | 575 | 575 | 560 |
| Hero Honda | 21 | 20.50 | 20 | Tata Pow | 121.75 | 121.50 | 122.50 |
| Hind Ciba | 1435 | 1440 | 1425 | Thapp Agro | — | — | — |
| Hind Liver | 114.25 | 113.50 | 111.50 | Tisco | 115.50 | 115.25 | 114.25 |
| Hind Motor | 28.50 | 29 | 28.50 | Vascon | 160 | 157.50 | 161.25 |
| Hindale | 257.50 | 256.25 | 257.50 | Vareli | 25 | 25 | 25.50 |
| Hochst | 2080 | 2080 | 2050 | Voltas | 770 | 760 | 740 |
| Ingersoll | 220 | 221.25 | 220 | Wimco | 28.25 | 27.25 | 27 |
| ITC | 61.50 | 60 | 60 | Zensith | 64 | 60 | 60.50 |
| Ind Org | 55.75 | 55 | 54.50 | Zuari Agro | 64 | 61 | 63 |
| Ind Rayon | 98.50 | 97.50 | 96 | | | | |
| Indrol | 230 | 220 | 227.50 | | | | |

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Ahmedein: from frogs to riches

CAIRO, (UPI): Next to his children, Hassan Ahmedein is fond of the croaking of frogs. Green frogs, to be exact.

Ahmedein, 38, is the self-proclaimed prince of Egypt's booming green frog business, an industry that annually provides tons of frogs to grace the plates of some of Europe's finest restaurants.

"I assure you that frogs taste better than shrimp," said Ahmedein, who with his three partners oversees a 7-acre (3-ha) green frog colony at the village of Mit Bira in the densely populated Nile Delta province of Menoufiya, 37.5 miles (60 km) north of Cairo.

"The frogs love us and we love them," said Ahmedein. "That is why none of the stocked frogs here would try to sneak out or jump over the fence."

"Aside from my children, I am fond of the sounds made by the frog, the most clean species," he said.

Ahmedein said he got the idea of start-

ing the frog exporting business when he was 17 and on a trip to France. He and three partners — Muard Farid, Mohammed Imbady and Farouk Abdel Qader — founded the International Trading and Export Co. nearly five years ago.

Farid said the business, which exports 135 tons of live frogs annually, is valued at about \$5.5 million.

"France is our major customer. We export to them nearly 85 per cent of our annual catch," said Farid.

The European taste in frog legs differs from one country to another, and within France from town to town, Ahmedein said.

"The consumer is very picky about the size of frog he will eat. The Parisians won't touch a leg from a frog that is over 60 grams (2 ounces)," Ahmedein said. "In Lyon, they prefer them larger, from 60 to 100 grams (2 to 3.5 ounces)."

"In Toulouse they like them tiny, not

larger than 35 grams (1.2 ounces) and in Bologna, which is the only place they are eaten in Italy, they prefer them large."

"Our most regular client is Maxim's in Paris," said Farid. The owner of the chic restaurant is described by Ahmedein as a fine frog hunter.

Ahmedein said Italy and Spain also are major purchasers.

"We also sell frogs to leading five-star hotels in Egypt including the Meridien," Farid, 36, said.

"Our main competitors are in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia," he said.

Ahmedein's operation includes a closely guarded laboratory, "where we conduct tests on the green frog."

"We even make sounds of young female frogs to attract the male frog to increase the catch if we can."

Of the four partners, only Ahmedein has ever tasted frog meat. Like many Muslims,

the others — and the local villagers — shy away from frogs.

"We use loudspeakers to convince villagers and prospective hunters that frogs are not against Islam," said Abdel Qader.

"Catching frogs is the easy part in the business as the frogs are plenty and just waiting for someone to pick and collect," he said. "But the difficult part is convincing an Egyptian villager to wade around in the water collecting frogs."

The frog hunters sometimes ask what happens to the frogs and are assured they are exported to foreigners, Abdel Qader said.

"We gather nearly 3 million frogs a year and have hunters spread all over the country with Menoufiya being our stronghold," Ahmedein said. "We employ 2,000 people in gathering and making the wicker shipping baskets."

Activist Ullman soon to be granny

HONG KONG, (Reuters): When Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann recently defied danger warnings to visit children in Hong Kong's often violent camps for Vietnamese boat people, she had in mind a particular child yet unborn.

Police advised that her safety in some camps could not be guaranteed, but Ullmann, 51, is soon to be a grandmother and says that knowledge has honed her keen social conscience.

"Now... (work with refugees) is even more important," she said in an interview.

"What if (my grandchild) turns out to be a very socially conscious person? Then he hears about all the things that were going on in the world and he says, 'Grandmother what did you do to help? I'd like to not lose his respect.'"

At a news conference last week to draw attention to the plight of Vietnamese boat people crammed into Hong Kong's overflowing camps, Ullmann spent 10 minutes lambasting a local journalist for an article she disliked.

"That would be just so bizarre," she told another reporter who asked if she would answer questions on a 30-year career that has included such films as "The Hour of the Wolf" in 1968 and the 1974 "Scenes From A Marriage."

Ullmann was in Hong Kong as joint leader of a delegation from the US-based Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children which spent a week touring the camps and talking to refugees.

"She was really marvellous in the camps," said one of her co-delegates, describing how Ullmann spent hours talking to boat people.

Since December, when Hong Kong for the first time forcibly repatriated a group of 51 boat people from among the 56,000 in the British colony, aid workers and police say the atmosphere in the jam-packed camps has grown far worse.

After surviving perilous voyages in small boats across the South China Sea, and languishing — often for years — in Hong Kong camps, most of the boat people now face the prospect of being sent back to their communist homeland.

Some are desperate enough to feel they have nothing to lose by violent protest against repatriation.

Vicious fights between rival gangs are commonplace. Women and girls complain of rape and sexual harassment. Children grow up seeing the world through barbed wire.

Ullmann described the conditions in the camps as a disgrace. Her delegation said in a statement: "No justifiable excuse exists for imprisoning infants, keeping them behind barbed wire, packed like sardines in concentration camp-like conditions."

The actress has little time for the politics of the problem — she sees suffering and wants it stopped — and she brushes aside the concerns of those Hong Kong residents who resent the imposition of so many Vietnamese on the already crowded British colony.

"What I am sure of is that if Hong Kong people could visit the camps and speak woman-to-woman, or child-to-child, or man-to-man, they would re-evaluate thoughts they might have had."

Although in the past 10 or 15 years Ullmann has spent little time in her native Norway. It is her strong attachment to her homeland that helps explain why she has focused her energies on the plight of refugees.

"I am very happy for many reasons to be Norwegian..."

Martyn joyfully re-united with mom after 35 years Quest of a lifetime ends

HIS hand was shaking as he dialled the number. And when Martyn Warren finally heard that longed-for voice for the first time, speaking across thousands of miles, he was almost too emotional to stammer, "Hello, Mum."

The search of a lifetime had ended with one fateful phone call. And 35-year-old Martyn was not just joyfully reunited with the mother who lost him as a baby. He also found a huge new family of brothers and sisters.

Dairy-worker Martyn, whose wife Christine and daughters 14-year-old Tracey and Michelle, aged 11, were thrilled with his new found happiness, told me: "It really is a dream come true. I was given away as a baby, mainly because my mother, who was separated from my father, was too poor to keep me. I lived in children's homes and with foster parents. But all the time I dreamt of the day I would find my Mum."

"Over the years, I have spent hundreds of pounds on phone calls, and almost every spare moment trying to trace her. And now it is all worthwhile."

Martyn went on: "I don't feel any bitterness towards her. Now I just want my mum, who lives in California, to be happy and proud of my own family."

The breakthrough came for Martyn when he asked the Salvation Army to help him trace his mother. For years, he had been told by the authorities that she was either dead, or had emigrated and was impossible to trace. But Martyn persisted. And then, one day, came the phone call Martyn had waited years to hear.

Martyn, who lives in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, recalled: "I was working in the garden when Chris called me in to the phone. She told me it was my sister — and said she thought it must be someone playing a trick on me."

But the caller turned out to be a sister I never knew I had. Janice, who lived about 20 miles away. She hadn't known of my existence until she coincidentally saw a Salvation Army letter. There were a few tears shed that night. Janice told me that my mother was alive and well, 77 years old, and lived in California. And she told me I had nine other brothers and sisters, and countless nephews and nieces!

Martyn could scarcely believe it. That night, he rang up everyone of his family, who lived in America and England — except for his mother.

Martyn said: "I kept coming up against a brick wall. I was told that my mother was probably dead, or had emigrated to Canada. That is a very hard thing to accept."

"I tried the American Embassy, several newspapers, councils and made endless phone calls, which I could hardly afford. At last I registered with the Salvation Army."

"I had almost given up hope of the Salvation Army ever being able to help until a year later, when they told me they had sent out a letter asking if anyone had heard of my family. The letter

At the age of 17, Martyn joined the Merchant Navy and enjoyed a few years of seeing the world. But he still longed to fill the gap in his heart, by finding his mother. And soon he began searching in earnest.



Martyn at home with his wife Chris, daughters Tracey and Michelle. (Inset) His only photograph of mum Daisy.

With the support of diminutive, dark-haired Christine, who was also fostered as a child, he searched through thousands of parish records for signs of his mother, armed only with a name and 30-year-old address.

Martyn told me: "I kept coming up against a brick wall. I was told that my mother was probably dead, or had emigrated to Canada. That is a very hard thing to accept."

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how happy I am that you are now again part of the family. At first it seemed so sad that all those years without meeting you and your family were wasted. I can't wait to meet you now."

Only a week later, Janice did meet Martyn and his family. She greeted them with a special celebration cake, and both she and Martyn's daughters could hardly hold back the tears.

Schoolgirl Tracey said: "We're all so pleased for dad, and it's really exciting for us to meet all his new family. I just can't wait to meet my grandma now."

Martyn says he still hasn't unravelled the true story of his past. But he knows that his mother had her own reasons for losing touch.

As he gazed at the only snapshot he has of the long-lost parent he is soon to meet, he said:

"Any woman who gives away a child will feel regret, remorse and sadness. And I don't want to make my mother unhappy again. Now that I've found her, I'm thinking of the present, not of the past. I don't have any regrets."

"After speaking to her on the phone, I put my feelings into words in a letter. And I ended it by writing, 'from your loving son never seen, but never forgotten. I think that summed it all up.'"

He explained: "I was very frightened to phone my mum at first. How do you tell someone you have never spoken to in your life before that you are their son? I knew that first and foremost my mother is an old lady, who may not have much time left on earth — and I didn't want to spoil those remaining years. In the end, my brother Rob agreed that he should ring her first, to break the ice."

Martyn's eyes misted over as he remembered the hardest phone call he has ever made. He said: "I locked myself in the upstairs bedroom so I could phone my mother alone, and my hands were shaking as I picked up the phone."

"But I realised that I shouldn't have worried when I finally heard her voice. We talked for half-an-hour, and it was a lovely feeling. Now she is hoping to come to England to see me, and meet the family."

As a result, this city, with a student-dominated population of about 200,000, is fast becoming one of the centres of creative arts in southeast Asia.

Beginning in the 1950s, Filipino artists looked to New York for their inspiration," says Santiago Bose, a Baguio-based artist who spent several years in the United States. "Even in the 1960s, when nationalism was in vogue here, our art was still derivative. We still thought the centre of the art world was in New York."

Bose is now working in various media, from native textiles to high-technology building materials, as he tries to respond to the physical, economic and political realities of being an artist in an impoverished Third World country.

A number of others — sculptors, painters, performing artists, film-makers and musicians — have come to Baguio to explore the same sort of issues. Several have been successful artists in Manila or in foreign countries. There are many obvious attractions here, not the least of which is the climate. The artistic community is still relatively small and is less concerned with earning a reputation and commercial success than its counterpart in the capital.

But while Baguio is undeniably a pleasant place to live and work, most of the artists who come here are asking serious questions. What is Filipino art? How can an avant-garde artist be of use in a developing country? Is it possible to learn from Western culture without being dominated by it?

David Baradas, an American-trained anthropologist and president of the Baguio Arts Guild, says that Baguio artists, with their interest in the traditions of the fiercely independent Igorot native to the surrounding Cordillera mountains, are at the cutting edge of a nationwide search for sources of pride and inspiration.

A country that is very insecure about its cultural identity — which the Philippines is — has nowhere to look for inspiration except in its remaining ethnic cultures," he says. "They represent for us, in terms of national heritage, the only version of our culture that is untainted by Western influence."

Ingredients to cook for one minute while stirring continuously. Add the water. Allow caramel mixture to simmer over a low heat for five minutes until the mixture becomes syrupy. Allowing the mixture to cool to room temperature. Beat the egg yolks in a bowl and whilst stirring add the cream, milk and caramel, making sure all the ingredients are well mixed. If you have an ice-cream machine, switch on and pour mixture in and leave until ready. If not, pour into a freezer container and stir every 15-20 minutes to keep the ice-cream smooth. Leave until set.

Put a 120ml and a 90ml pudding basin in the freezer for 15 minutes. Whip the double cream and when it's thick, add a few drops of vanilla essence and a pinch of castor sugar. Fold in the sliced bananas and the raspberries. Take the basins out of the freezer and line the larger one with the butterscotch ice-cream until there is a space about the size of the 90ml basin left. Place the 90ml basin in the space so you have the small basin in the large basin with the ice-cream in between. Freeze until ice-cream is solid — about one hour.

Remove from the freezer. Take out the smaller bowl by twisting gently or by putting a



The Right Honourable Bernard Weatherill recommends vegetarian nut roast.

to test them all personally! "The most popular things were starters, and main courses made with chicken. We had a lot of puddings sent in, too. The British adore sweet anything."

Most of the dishes were simple to make. But top chef Raymond Blanc created a complicated

four-page recipe for roast guinea fowl especially for the book. Then, when it had gone to the printers he phoned through another sauce — just in case he missed culinary perfection the

Butterscotch bombe (serves 8-10)
120g of brown sugar
25g of butter
2 eggs
250ml of cream
250ml of milk

Ingredients to cook for one minute while stirring continuously. Add the water. Allow caramel mixture to simmer over a low heat for five minutes until the mixture becomes syrupy. Allowing the mixture to cool to room temperature. Beat the egg yolks in a bowl and whilst stirring add the cream, milk and caramel, making sure all the ingredients are well mixed. If you have an ice-cream machine, switch on and pour mixture in and leave until ready. If not, pour into a freezer container and stir every 15-20 minutes to keep the ice-cream smooth. Leave until set.

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Remove from the freezer. Take out the smaller bowl by twisting gently or by putting a

hot damp cloth inside it. Fill the gap with the raspberry cream mixture and cover the top with any remaining ice-cream so that the raspberry mixture is enclosed. Freeze for about two hours.

To serve, dip the basin in a sink full of hot water for 10 seconds. Turn upside down onto a serving plate. Pipe rosettes of cream around and decorate with raspberries and mint leaves.

Courgettes maison
4 courgettes
50-75g of butter
1 shallot
4 tomatoes
157g of prawns
300ml of mornay sauce
50g of cheese

Blanch courgettes whole until tender. If large, finish the cooking wrapped in oiled grease-proof paper and bake in a moderate oven until tender. Finely chop a shallot, soften in remaining butter, set on one side. Scald and skin tomatoes, quarter and remove seeds. When courgettes are tender cut off tops or halve. Scoop out flesh, mix it with shallot and tomatoes and season well. Replace mixture in courgette skins. Place prawns on top. Spoon over mornay sauce. Add extra grated cheese — brown under grill.

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Artwork displayed by the association

Filipinos in search of cultural roots

BAGUIO CITY, The Philippines, (WNL): On the island of Luzon, some miles north of Manila, lies the highland city of Baguio. Built as a summer retreat by American administrators at the beginning of the century, Baguio is best known for its cool climate, its pine forests and its delicious fruits and vegetables. It could just as well be known as a showcase for the Philippines' perplexing hybrid heritage.

Peopled by Ilocanos and Pangasinans from the north, Pampangans from the central plain, Tagalogs and Visayans from the south, Chinese traders, native Igorot tribespeople and exotic combinations of all of the above, Baguio is a living example of just how difficult it is to put a finger on "Filipino culture."

A group of relative newcomers is trying to come to terms with such a tangled culture, seeking in the process to separate what is good from what is not so good in a country that suffers from a centuries-old, and often crippling, identity crisis. By using native materials and looking to the non-Western rituals and objects of their tribal neighbours, Baguio artists aim to define what they hope will become a uniquely Filipino art.

As a result, this city, with a student-dominated population of about 200,000, is fast becoming one of the centres of creative arts in southeast Asia.

Beginning in the 1950s, Filipino artists looked to New York for their inspiration," says Santiago Bose, a Baguio-based artist who spent several years in the United States. "Even in the 1960s, when nationalism was in vogue here, our art was still derivative. We still thought the centre of the art world was in New York."

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It's ironic, Baradas adds, that many of the tribal artists themselves are embarrassed by their work. "It so happens that the indigenous art of the Cordilleras is of a very high quality," he says. "Some of the native sculptures are being fought over by major museums around the world. But many of the people who create them don't know that. The Christianization process has built an outlook that makes them put these things down. So there they are, trying to hide their art, or throw it away, or reject it."

"It's part of a problem that can be traced to the coming of the Spaniards in the 16th century, according to Baradas. Although the Philippines is inescapably Asian (its nearest neighbours are Taiwan and Indonesia), by the 1800s the Filipino art was almost indistinguishable from that of Mexico or Cuba. With the entrance of the Americans at the end of the 19th century, artistic expression strayed even further from its pre-Christian roots."

"Today, if you refuse to acknowledge that portion of the country's heritage that has been preserved, then you are really left with no identity," Baradas says. "Your only choice is this undefined, amorphous tradition that is vaguely international in character. It's an adaptive, at times imitative version of Western culture. Unfortunately, it's the culture of the modern urban Filipino."

Political and aesthetic dissatisfaction with this sort of quasi-Western orientation has led many Baguio artists to look more closely at the world around them. Some of the most interesting work incorporates the landscape itself, and much of it involves large numbers of people. Performing artists and street theatre are very popular. The crumbling facade of a ruined building on Baguio's main street has been transformed into a stage for often-bizarre artistic "happenings."

This sort of public art meshes well with Filipino traditions, says Santiago Bose. "Filipinos are not as individualistic as, say, the Americans. You'll notice that most of the artwork we have here involves community, which is essential to maintaining small clans."

Communality often expresses itself in an emphasis on the artistic process rather than on the product. "In most cases," says Bose, discussing his own work, "the object is secondary. It's the participation and the reaction of the audience that's important."

That approach can lead to some fascinating collaborations. In 1982 Kidlat Tahimik, an internationally known experimental film-maker who lives in Baguio, made a short film called "Yoyoy." In it, an ingenious Filipino fashion designer from just that he finds in his yard and blasts off for the moon. When he arrives, he finds that he can't communicate with the people back on earth.

Bose thought about the astronaut's problem, feeling that the film needed a resolution. But what could be done to bridge the communication gap? Building a Philippine "Mission Control Centre" was out of the question. But then he thought about a major Baguio landmark, two huge military communications towers that sit like twin ears on top of a nearby mountain.

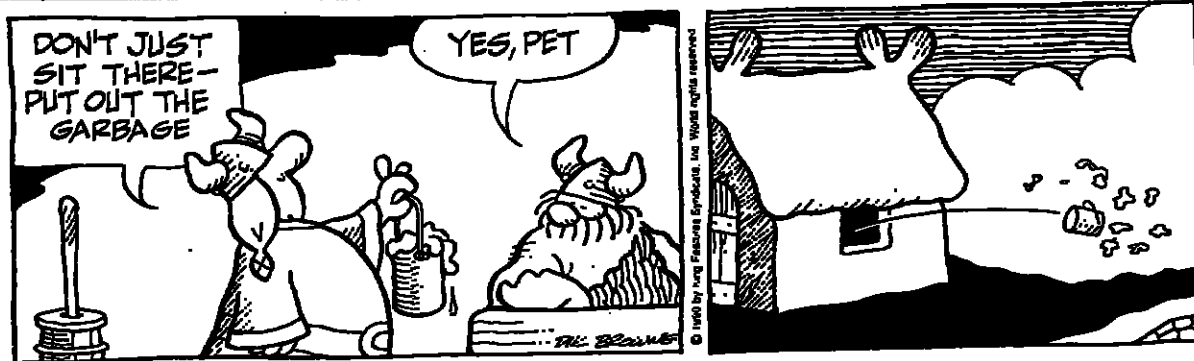
In a gesture full of ironic humour, Bose got some friends together and built a matching pair of communications towers on another mountaintop — towers especially designed to receive messages from the stranded astronaut.

LEISURE

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



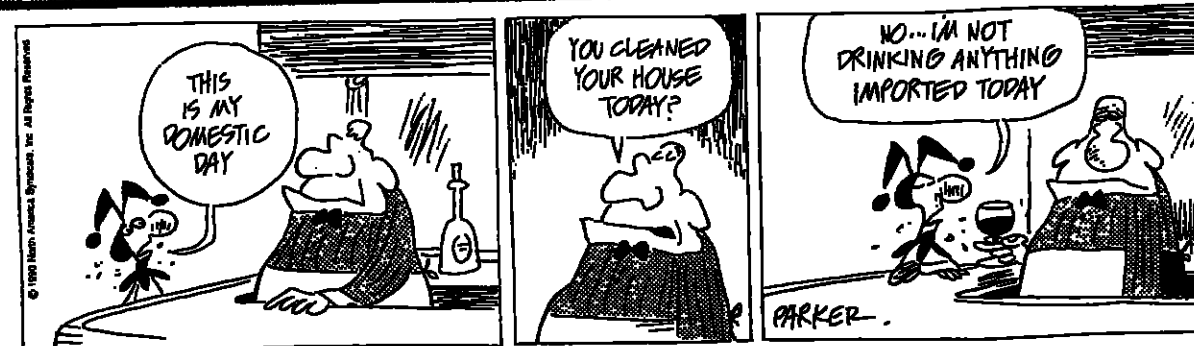
KATY HATCHER



BEETLEBAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CREEP



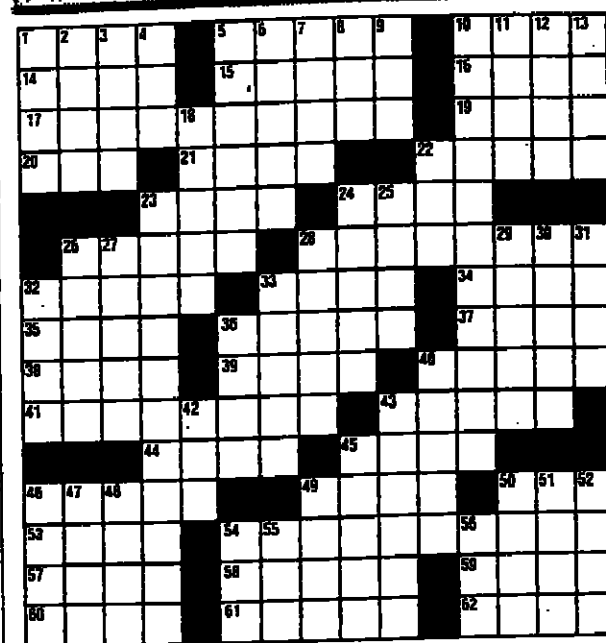
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Suffragette
5 Capri and Man
10 Snail's pace
14 Lined up
15 Actress — Belafonte-Harper
16 Gnarl
17 Hairy arachnids
19 Woodwind
20 Sneaky
21 A lower voice
22 Swashbuckler's weapon, perhaps
23 Algonquian-speaker
24 Knight wear
26 Stations: Fr.
28 Germs
32 Picture: Abbr.
33 Actor Reynolds
34 Paddletika
35 Namesakes of a Reiner
36 Does an office job
37 Marina structure
38 Touch
39 NATO, OAS, etc.
40 Kind of velvet
41 Round worm
43 Analyze a sentence
44 Camp accommodations
45 007
46 Toot
49 Places
50 Common ailment
53 Inter —
54 Thick-skinned herbivore
57 Juan Ponce de —
- DOWN**
- 2 Drama divisions
26 Shakespeare played there
27 Photo holder
28 Dieter's target
29 Showers
30 Castle of note
31 Elizabethan song
32 Turkey neighbor
33 Bees' companions
36 Place for a pump
40 Financial crisis
42 Part of 36 Down
43 Mountains of the Appalachians
45 Treats for Rover
46 Curing substance
47 Court filing
48 Melee
49 Toppers
50 Wife, in Wiesbaden
51 Mythology
52 Employed
54 Distinguishing cloth
55 Color
56 Relative of et al.
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- RAM LEAPS SWIM
RICA ECLAT PINE
AGIS IRENE ATTA
GHOSTBUSTER GOD
STREAM SLASH
SPAIN ETCHES
ADS ENDEAR AURA
COPED LOT ENNIS
EMIL DENIER TEE
SORARE STREW
INEPT ACROSS
BLIT-BROOMSTICKS
RIGA ENLAI STIR
ALUM STEIN TIENS
GLAMY SOING STS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE GRANDEST COUP

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ AK 6 4 3
♦ A 9 6 4
♣ AKQ

WEST

♠ 9 5
♥ J 9 7
♦ K Q J 8
♣ 10 7 5 2

EAST

♠ K 10 7
♥ Q 10 8
♦ 10 7 5 2
♣ J 9 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 8 6 4 2
♥ 5 2
♦ 3
♣ 8 6 4

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| 7 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead: King of ♠

Bridge players have notoriously poor memories. They forget their disasters quickly and remember only their latest triumphs. Trump Coup Tommy was no exception. Although his checkbook should have served as a reminder of what the game cost him, he entered 1990 in the best of spirits because of this hand.

North's jump to six spades was a reasonable gamble. His hand rated to cover all of South's side-suit losers, so slam would depend only on Tommy having a one-loser suit for his vulnerable preempt. Tommy's grand-slam venture was the sort of

insane action that made him such an irritating partner with the rest of the club members.

The king of diamonds opening lead was won in dummy and the jack of trumps was finessed successfully. Most declarers would have cashed the ace in the hope of dropping a doubleton king, but not Tommy. Such a simple line of play would have belied his name!

Two high clubs and a high heart served as entries for three diamond ruffs. The other high heart was used to ruff a heart, reducing the hand to this position:

NORTH

— 6 4
— Q

WEST

♠ 9 —
♥ — —
♦ 10 7

EAST

♠ K 10
♥ — —
♦ J

SOUTH

♠ A Q
♥ — —
♦ — —
♣ 8

Declarer crossed to the table with a club to lead a heart and East was dead. No matter what he did, Tommy's A Q of spades were poised to take the last two tricks! Game, set and match.



YOUR STARS



A small change in your working methods will produce excellent results. Avoid spending a lot of time on secondary matters. Do not place too much reliance on your intuitive powers. Be more patient.



Do not try to do too many things all at once. Take a little better care of your health. Make sure you do not spend more than you can afford. Be relevant.



There will be some complications and you should do all you can to sort them out. You will be able to consolidate progress you have made and should do so. There is a risk of mixing up matters concerning work and your person. Be sincere.



You will find some things easier to get on with and should not delay. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Have a little more faith in yourself and do not suspect others too much. Be tactful.



You should spend just a little while tidying up. There is no harm in having second thoughts but do not keep changing your mind. Your lucky numbers are 22 and 38. You must beware of spoiling a happy relationship. Be benevolent.



You may have misheard, do not be shy of asking. You should make sure you do not spend too much on little items; it all mounts up. You should not be quite so critical of others. Be observant.



You will have something to be pleased about but do not let it go to your head. You should beware of acting on impulse or jumping to conclusions. And do not expect others to be at your sole disposal. Be reasonable.



Do not allow events to take place, instead do all you can to avoid complications. Your enthusiasm is liable to outrun your ability to perform, so exercise as little more restraint. Think less of the past, more of the future. Be polite.



You are liable to allow yourself to be led astray. Make sure you get all the rest you need, but no indulgence please. Not everything will be to your liking, but do not let that depress you unduly. Be magnanimous.



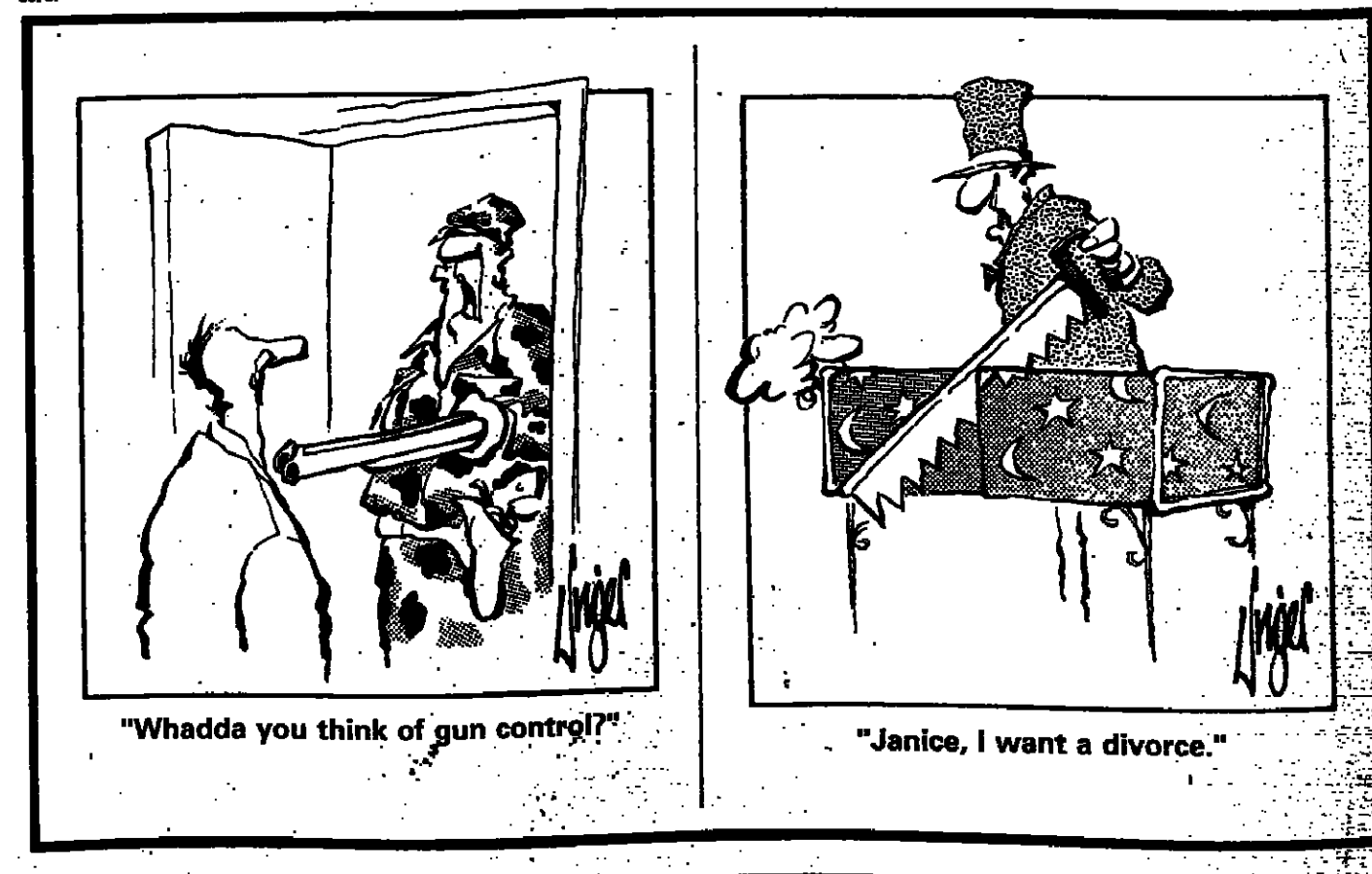
You will get on better with those around you. You are liable to be tempted to spend more than you know you should. Make sure you are not led astray by "sales talk". Be sensible.



You have a lot to do but should just get on with it. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated or distracted by what still remains to be done. Avoid taking any undue risks and do not gamble just now. Be frank.



Venus's better influence will help you to overcome an emotional problem. You should try to overcome a tendency to nervousness and excitability. Make sure you do not break a promise you have made. Be reliable.



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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ENGLISH lessons. Qualified English teacher gives home tuition. Good rates. Tel. 3710450. (AT5-51131-3)

Transport

AVAILABLE from Salmiya to Shuwaik or Kuwait City for office or bank timings. Tel. Clifford, 5617497. (AT4-51113-3)

NAME CHANGE

I, GULSHER MINHAS, holder of Pakistani passport No. C 574477 hereby change my name to Mohd Kulsher Minhas. (AT4-51124-2)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required, Filipino for a small family with 2 children to live-in in Salwa. Must speak English and have transferable residence, preferably with husband. Tel. 5657357. (AT3-51101-3)

LOST

PASSPORT and Civil ID. No. EM215202 in the name of Alexander Pollock, Canadian. Finder please tele. 4848705, 8 am - 1 pm. (AT4-51127-3)

FEMALE Siamese cat, lost in Jabriya, January 10th. Answers to the name of Sophie. Tel. 4836021. (AT5-51133-3)

DOG, German Shepherd, female, 1 year old, brown with black jacket. Handsome reward for finder. Tel. 5320348. (AT3-51108-3)

ACCOMMODATION

Available

SALMIYA, near the K.G. Indian School, Building No. 13, ground floor. One room with electricity and water, for a family/bachelors. Rent KD80. Tel. Balbir Singh, 5643426, after 4 pm. (AT4-51123-3)

SALMIYA, near the Indian School. One furnished room in a 2 bed room flat with kitchen and tele. facility, preferably for a single person to share with a single man. Tel. Ajit 565406 (res) after 6.30 pm or 2432001 ext Ahmedia. (AT3-51103-3)

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Former heavyweight champion continues comeback

Foreman KOs Cooney



A crashing right from Foreman (left) sends Cooney to the mat. (Reuter wirephoto)

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan. 16, (AP) — George Foreman, who had a big waistline and an even bigger punch, needed less than five minutes to dispatch Gerry Cooney last night, then predicted he would get rid of heavyweight champion Mike Tyson even quicker.

"I'm what you call a super-duper big-match heavyweight," said the 41-year-old, 253 and 1-2 pound (115-kilogramme) Foreman, who doesn't worry much about what he eats.

At the Convention Centre, he made a snack of the 33-year-old Cooney, smashing him to the floor twice and knocking him out in the second round.

Referee Joe Cortez didn't bother to count after the second knockdown, but he could have counted way past ten. The end came at 1:57.

Foreman, who held the heavyweight title in 1973-74, has been talking about challenging the unbeaten, 23-year-old Tyson. His 20th straight victory since beginning a comeback in 1987 from a 16-year retirement shouldn't hurt Foreman's chances for a title bid.

"I will probably knock him (Tyson) out a lot faster because he won't be back up," Foreman said.

While Foreman's comeback continues, Cooney said there would be no more comebacks for him.

"No more fighting," Cooney said. "There's not going to be any more comebacks for me."

The 231-pound (104-kilogramme) Cooney, a leading heavyweight in the 1980s although he fought only 31 rounds in

the decade, kept out of trouble in the first round, even though he had his mouthpiece knocked out by a left jab after the fight had gone one minute.

Foreman, who said he doesn't punch in anger but that a knock-out is the simplest way to win, had been criticised in past fights for not always dominating mediocre opposition.

"A lot of people have been on my back for being so nice," said the man who turned to Evangelism and founded a church after he retired in 1977 following a loss to Jimmy Young. "That's why I ended it real quick."

"I got caught," Cooney said. "He can punch ... he caught me with a couple of good bombs."

The second round was approaching midpoint when Foreman brought a crowd of 12,581 to its feet by knocking down Cooney in the New Yorker's corner. Foreman nailed Cooney with a short left hook that obviously hurt him, then landed a four-punch combination climaxed by a left-right that put him down.

Cooney, who now has been knocked out in all three of his losses in a 31-bout career, got up at four but was obviously hurt.

Foreman lumbered across the ring and nailed Cooney with a left uppercut and right to the jaw that dropped him in a heap.

After Cooney finally got up, he staggered around the ring and had to be helped to his corner.

After being interviewed for television, Cooney left the ring to a smattering of applause and with a smile on his face.

Cooney has retired after being knocked out in the fifth round by Michael Spinks at the Conven-

tion Centre on June 15, 1987, and came back to prove to himself that he was a better fighter than he had been against Spinks.

Retirement would seem the only way to go now for Cooney, who failed in a heavyweight title bid when he was stopped by Larry Holmes in 1982.

The 40-year-old Holmes has been talking about coming out of retirement, and Foreman's dominance against Cooney might provide further encouragement.

"I gave it a great shot," Cooney said. "I trained hard, I had a good man (in trainer Gil Clancy), I had support from so many people. It just didn't work out."

Foreman, who was guaranteed \$1 million, as was Cooney, said that while he wants Tyson, he won't wait around, that he must keep busy to keep his waistline within at least reasonable bounds.

"I've got to fight, I've got to fight for millions, I got to fight for peanuts. Otherwise, I'll eat the world up."

"I didn't show everything," Foreman said of his performance.

Foreman seems to be on the same wavelength as his trainer, Archie Moore, the former light heavyweight champion who fought until age 49 and had a 38-3-2 record after his 42nd birthday.

Foreman, who won the heavyweight title by knocking out Joe Frazier in the second round in 1973 and lost it in his third defense when knocked out by Muhammad Ali in 1974, now has a 65-2 record with 61 knockouts.



The referee raises Foreman's arm, declaring him winner. (Reuter wirephoto)



Foreman (right) lands a hard right to Cooney's head. (Reuter wirephoto)

NBA rules against \$1m showdown

CHICAGO, Jan. 16, (AP) — The National Basketball Association will not sanction a million-dollar duel between its two top stars, Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls and "Magic" Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers, an NBA official said.

In its Sunday editions, the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper quoted Gary Bettman, the NBA's senior vice president and general counsel, as ruling out the so-called Michael-Magic Showdown.

"A one-on-one game between Michael and Magic is neither something that (the NBA) would want to sponsor itself or have some other promoter do," he said.

Isiah Thomas, president of the NBA Players' Association, had indicated last week that he was opposed to the one-on-one matchup.

The proposed contest would have consisted of a 30-minute duel, broken into two 15-minute halves. The winner would have received \$1 million, with any additional revenues going to charities of the players' choices, said Ross Levinsohn, a New York-based spokesman for Jordan.

Supporters said the event would be a promoter's dream — an unparalleled meeting of basketball giants.

Johnson, the NBA's prototypical big guard, was the League's Most Valuable Player in 1987 and 1989. Jordan was the 1988 MVP and has been named seven times to the all-NBA team.

Wekesa named in Cup squad

NAIROBI, Jan. 16, (Reuter) — Kenya has lifted a ban on its top tennis player, Paul Wekesa, for playing a South African and included him in its team to meet Ivory Coast in a preliminary round of the Davis Cup tournament next month.

Sources close to the Kenya National Sports Council (KNSC) said today the council had pardoned Wekesa, 23, after he apologised for flouting Kenya's ban on sporting links with South Africa and promised not to do so again.

Wekesa was banned last year from representing Kenya in international sport after playing against a South African in a professional tournament in the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

The sources said Wekesa had been included in the five-member Kenyan squad that will meet Ivory Coast in the first round of African Zone Group two in Abidjan.

The other members of the Kenyan team are Eno Polo, Kush Bhardwaj, Peter Otieno and the captain, Salim Rana.

Coghlan relishes comeback at 37

NEW YORK, Jan. 16, (AP) — Eamonn Coghlan, the world indoor mile record-holder, had just won a 3,000-metre race in Hamilton, Ontario. The 37-year-old Irishman was standing with countryman Marcus O'Sullivan when a fan approached and asked whether he was Eamonn Coghlan.

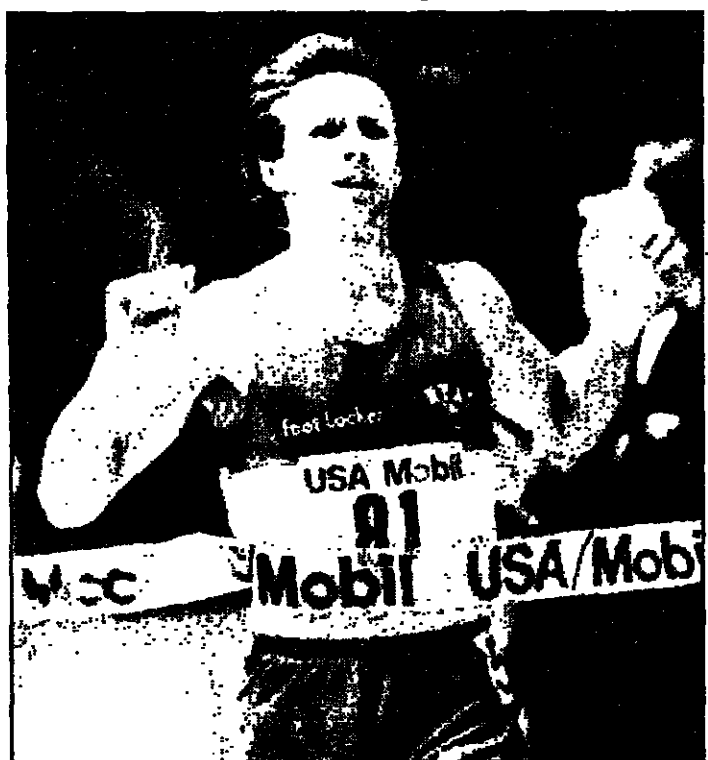
"No, he is," Coghlan said, pointing to O'Sullivan.

"Then, I said to him, 'who looks older?' and he pointed to

Marcus," Coghlan recalled with a laugh, noting that O'Sullivan is in fact the younger of the pair — by 11 years.

Coghlan's victory in the 3,000 metres Friday night was his first indoor race on a board track in three years. But he isn't trying to fool anybody. Especially himself.

After announcing his retirement a year ago, following a series of injuries, he's back in competition.



Coghlan: having fun with his running

"I'm just having fun with my running," he said. "I'm enjoying it. There's no pressure on me."

Coghlan is taking the low-key approach to his comeback, because he insists he no longer is chasing Olympic medals or world records.

"I'm running just as hard as before, but with less pressure," he said. "Nobody thought I would run again. Not even my wife."

Coghlan said that during his retirement, he was continually questioned about whether he would return. The questioning intensified during the final three months of 1989, when his workouts became more intense.

But Coghlan fended off the inquiries. "I'm retired," he kept saying.

Even on New Year's day, at a party with friends, "someone said, 'you're in good shape, are you running again?'" Coghlan said.

Again, the answer was negative.

"The next day, he saw in the papers that I had announced I was unretired," Coghlan said. "He said, 'what are you doing?'"

The boyish-looking Coghlan knows exactly what he's doing. He has tailored his training so that he is not abusing his body, and he is picking his races carefully.

"I'm not sore in the morning anymore like I used to be," he said. "I only noticed that this year. In the past, everything was sore."

He plans to stick with racing at 3,000 metres instead of competing in his favourite event, the

mile, which is about 1,600 metres.

He said the decision was based on his physical condition. He doesn't feel he has yet regained the speed to run the shorter distance.

"I'm just glad to be back running at a high level," he said. "But the mile requires watch-and-wait tactics. I don't want to get into that."

The indoor season has been good to me over the years. I want to win every single race I'm in. My ambitions are high, but it's not the be-all or end-all.

"When I got off the track at Hamilton, I felt like I had never been away from the boards."

Coghlan's next big races will be in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 2 and the Meadowlands Invitational at East Rutherford, New Jersey on Feb. 9.

In the Millrose Games, he will be the oldest non-masters (over 40) competitor in the event's 83-year history, according to meet director Howard Scherz. He is the all-time champion in the famed Wanamaker Mile with seven victories. His first was in 1977, his last in 1987.

Now, along with hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah, who won his first Millrose title in 1978, Coghlan will try to become the first athlete to win in three separate decades.

Winning again would be "a matter of personal pride," Coghlan said.

"When you're 32 or 35 or whatever, you're supposed to be done with," he said. "Why is that supposed to be?"

Maple Leafs edge through

TORONTO, Jan. 16, (AP) — A controversial goal by Toronto's Wendel Clark with 6:15 remaining in the game gave the Maple Leafs a 7-6 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks last night.

Toronto completed an eight-game home stand with a 6-1-1 mark and is off until Thursday when it plays in St. Louis. The victory moved the second-place Leafs within five points of the Blackhawks in the Norris Division.

On the game-winning goal, goaltender Jacques Cloutier had his catching Mitt over the puck in the crease after stopping a shot. Clark three times poked at the Mitt and the puck was dislodged and slid over the goal line. Despite the objections of the Blackhawks, who claimed the play should have been blown dead, referee Ron Hoggarth ruled it was a goal.

Results
Toronto 7, Chicago 6
Montreal 4, Minnesota 3
Boston 4, Hartford 1

Big Kuwaiti challenge in Dubai Horse Show

DUBAI: Kuwaiti riders will be making a strong challenge for honours in the Seventh Dubai Horse Show, which gets under way today with a record number of entries.

Most of the Gulf's leading competitors will share the stage with a quartet of accomplished international competitors, and Kuwaiti hopes are high for a repeat of last year's triumphs at the Metropolitan Hotel Showground.

Dashing Kuwaiti army officer Lt Rakad Al Daphire produced three of his country's four victories to deservedly win the coveted Silver Spurs for the leading Arab rider at the show.

He again heads the Kuwaiti entry, which includes 48 horses out of more than 150 gathered for the four-day event, held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Crown Prince of Dubai.

Among the big attractions is the Emirates Stakes, a new international class which is certain to be keenly contested tomorrow (Thursday) night. Emirates' support for the show has helped to ensure that it retains its reputation as the largest and most prestigious in the Middle East.

Some flights will continue to fly through the region. For example, the Seychelles and Mauritius will still be reached via Bahrain. Dubai will continue to be the transit point for Hong Kong and a new extension will mean that Manila will be added to the flight twice a week. Flights to Delhi, Madras and Karachi will also continue to operate from Kuwait.

Tucker's 3-pointer takes Knicks past Bulls

Cleveland hold on to beat Spurs

NEW YORK, Jan. 16, (AP) — Trent Tucker hit a 3-point shot after taking an inbound pass with one-tenth of a second left yesterday, giving the New York Knicks a 109-106 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

The score was tied 106-106 when Michael Jordan, who finished with 26 points despite 3-for-13 shooting in the first half, missed a 3-pointer and the Knicks got the rebound with four seconds left.

The Bulls, under the limit in fouls, grabbed Mark Jackson intentionally, forcing the Knicks to bring the ball inbound with a tenth of a second left. After a timeout, Jackson passed to Tucker, who wasted no time putting up the high-arching gamewinner.

Cavaliers 92, Spurs 89

Guard Mark Price recorded the first triple-double of his career with 25 point shots for the Cavaliers, who set a team record by hitting 10 long-range shots in 23 attempts. It was the third straight win for Cleveland and the second consecutive loss for San Antonio, which got 28 points and 10 rebounds from rookie centre David Robinson.



Seattle Supersonics' Xavier McDaniel (right) and guard Sedale Threatt (left) tie up Houston Rockets Otis Thorpe. (Reuter wirephoto)

Craig Ehlo scored 20 points for Cleveland and Williams added 14. Anderson scored 17 points for the Spurs, but Cummings, who is averaging 22.3 points per game, was held to nine points

on 3-of-20 shooting.

Nuggets 101, Mavericks 90
Alex English scored 20 of his season-high 29 points in the first half as Denver handed Dallas its fourth straight defeat.

The Mavericks, led by Derek

Harper's 26 points, played without forwards Adrian Dantley and Sam Perkins. Dantley had muscle tightness in his neck and shoulders after scoring a season-

high 30 points Saturday against Utah. Perkins missed his second straight game with the flu.

English scored 10 of Denver's first 12 points, and Nuggets led by as many as 20 points in the first half before Dallas rallied.

Lakers 111, Kings 91

Vlade Divac, a rookie from Yugoslavia, scored 25 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Sacramento for the 40th straight time at the Forum.

The Lakers improved their record to an NBA-best 26-8 and tied the New York Knicks for the League's best home mark at 17-1. Sacramento, 1-5 since Dick Motta took over as head coach, lost for the 16th time in 18 games. It was the Kings' ninth straight loss on the road and fourth defeat of the season by 20 points or more.

The 25 points were a season-high for Divac, a backup centre. Kenny Smith led Sacramento with 20 points.

Results
New York 109, Chicago 106
Cleveland 92, San Antonio 89
Denver 101, Dallas 90
L.A. Lakers 111, Sacramento 91
Indiana 144, Golden State 105
Miami 111, Washington 105
Phoenix 118, Charlotte 108
Seattle 105, Houston 101



Darts champion

Ahmed Jassim emerged as singles champion in the 1989-90 Bahrain Open Darts Tournament in Bahrain recently. He beat Hassan Murad 5-4 in the final to take the title. Above: Jassim with his trophies.

SPORTS

Ardiles seeks full FA badge

LONDON, Jan 16, (UPI) — Ossie Ardiles, the Argentine soccer player turned manager who has made his home in England for 12 years, may still earn the full English FA coaching badge, even though he isn't English.

Ardiles is now coaching Second Division club Swindon, and says he should be allowed to take the full coaching course with his colleagues instead of a special course for foreign coaches.

Reports yesterday that he had considered making a race relations complaint against the FA, apparently caused officials to rethink their position.

"We could be prepared to think again about this situation," said FA chief executive Graham Kelly. Officials were apparently also swayed by the fact that Ardiles had been allowed to complete the full FA preliminary coaching course.

Ardiles joined First Division club Tottenham in 1978. He has been in Britain ever since, though he was loaned to French club Paris St Germain for a few months in the 1982-83 season.

The Professional Footballers Association is backing Ardiles' request.

"We believe there is genuine merit in Ossie's appeal because of his contribution to our game and the length of his residency here," said PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor.

"I feel strongly about this and just want it sorted out as quickly as possible," Ardiles said.

FA Cup

Result of an English Football Association (FA) Cup, third round replay soccer match yesterday:

Millwall 3 Manchester City 1

Revised fourth round draw:

Bristol City v Chelsea, Norwich v Liverpool (Sunday Jan 28), Rochdale v Northampton, Aston Villa v Port Vale, Reading v Newcastle, Southampton v Oxford, Barnsley v Ipswich, Hereford v Manchester United (Sunday Jan 28), Blackpool v Torquay, Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough or Everton (Sunday, Jan 28), Sheffield United v Watford, Millwall v Cambridge United, Oldham v Brighton, Crystal Palace v Huddersfield, Arsenal v Queens Park Rangers, West Bromwich v Charlton.

Matches to be played on Saturday, January 27 unless otherwise stated.

Poland and Italy tie 1-1

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 16, (AP) — Italy and Poland battled to a 1-1 tie yesterday in the second round of the Masters Cup tournament of former soccer greats held in South America's largest city.

The first half was fast paced with stars from both teams showing flashes of their past brilliance.

Poland opened the scoring at the 23-minute mark when Puskasz blasted a shot into the right hand corner of the net.

Italy struck back just as the period ended, with Causio lofting a free kick past Poland's goalie Tomaszewski.

Both teams had good chances in the second half, but neither was able to break the tie.

Argentina and Poland each have one loss in the competition to accompany yesterday's tie, and are tied for fourth place.

Pakistan lose with 20 minutes left

Australia win first Test

MELBOURNE, Jan 16, (Reuters) — Australia, held up by a Pakistan fightback in which Ejaz Ahmed scored a defiant 121, finally clinched victory by 92 runs with 20 minutes left in the first cricket Test today.

Pakistan, needing 429 to win, were all out for 336 on the fifth and final day, their resistance finally ending when Terry Alderman trapped last man Aaqib Javed lbw to finish with five for 105.

Australia have now won seven of their last 12 Tests, drawing the other five, and their success here put them 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Yet Allan Border's team endured a few anxious moments, particularly when Ejaz and wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf shared a

stand of 73 that lifted Pakistan to 291 for five.

Fast-medium bowler Alderman broke that partnership and effectively finished the job with support from fellow paceman Merv Hughes, who ended with three for 79, and wrist spinner Peter Sleep.

"It was a great game," a relieved Border said in a television interview after the match. "For a while there they had a sniff of victory. We're very proud of our effort. It was a very professional performance."

Pakistan captain Imran Khan said he was happy with the way his team fought back but they were let down in both innings by the top order batsmen.

When Pakistan resumed at 159 for four, Ejaz quickly reached 50

by on-driving Alderman for three in his second over.

His overnight partner and captain, Imran Khan, played with great flair to make 45 but escaped on 29 and 38, Carl Rackemann dropping a catch at fine leg off Hughes and wicketkeeper Ian Healy missing a chance off Sleep.

Imran was out just before lunch for 45, leg before to Alderman after a fifth wicket partnership of 84.

When Ejaz and Yousuf were building their fine sixth wicket stand in the second session, Pakistan hinted that they might become only the third side in Test history to score more than 400 to win.

But their hopes effectively vanished when Yousuf was lbw to Alderman for 38 and Mark



Ejaz led Pakistan's fightback



Alderman took five for 105

the-match for his haul of 11 for 160.

● Pakistan are set to receive a batting boost ahead of the second cricket Test against Australia starting in Adelaide on Friday.

The Pakistanis expect experienced opener Rameez Raja and in-form middle order batsman Salim Malik to arrive in time to play in Adelaide.

They missed the start of the tour because Rameez was suffering from a shoulder injury and Salim was unwell.

Australia announced one change in their 12 for the second Test, with off-spinner Peter Taylor replacing fast bowler Greg Campbell.

Australia's squad: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, Mark Taylor, David Boon, Dean Jones, Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Peter Sleep, Merv Hughes, Carl Rackemann, Terry Alderman, Peter Taylor.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 223 (M. Taylor 52, W. Akram six for 62)

PAKISTAN first innings 107

AUSTRALIA second innings 312 for eight declared (M. Taylor 101, A. Border not out 62, W. Akram five for 98)

PAKISTAN second innings

| | |
|---|-----|
| Aamer Malik c Taylor b Hughes | 0 |
| Mansoor Akhtar lbw b Alderman | 14 |
| Shoaib Mohammad c Boon b Hughes | 10 |
| Javed Miandad lbw b Waugh | 65 |
| Ejaz Ahmed c Marsh b Hughes | 121 |
| Imran Khan lbw b Alderman | 45 |
| Salim Yousuf lbw b Alderman | 38 |
| Wasim Akram c Taylor b Sleep | 6 |
| Tauseef Ahmed not out | 14 |
| Waqar Younis lbw b Alderman | 4 |
| Aaqib Javed lbw b Alderman | 0 |
| Extras (b-1 lb-7 w-2 nb-0) | 19 |
| Total | 336 |
| Fall: 1-4 2-23 3-31 4-134 5-218 6-291 7-303 8-328 9-333 | |
| Bowling: Hughes 42-14-79-3 (1nb), Rackemann 38-13-67-0 (1w 4nb), Alderman 35-8-105-5 (4nb), Sleep 21-7-64-1 (1w), Waugh 3-0-13-1. | |
| Result: Australia won by 92 runs. | |



Wasim, Man of the Match

Dinu aims to wipe sports slate clean

BUCHAREST, Jan 16, (Reuters) — Cornel Dinu, a former Romanian soccer star victimised under the Ceausescu dictatorship, is preparing to hit back as the embattled country's new deputy sports minister.

But he says it will be a tough task cleaning up Romanian sport after a quarter of a century of corruption.

Dinu's new boss, Sports Minister Mircea Angelescu, described the country's football scene as a compendium of "all the evils of the Ceausescu regime."

"There's going to be so much to do, so many things to redress," Dinu said in an interview with Reuters. "But at the same time we must try to push things forward so as not to lose ground where we have had some success."

Dinu, appointed by the National Salvation Front that has ruled since dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed last month, pledged that Romania's new sports authorities would not allow corruption back in.

"We owe it to the thousands of young people who died in the revolution," he said.

Numerous sports personalities, notably from Romania's Olympic shooting team and national rugby union side, were in the front line, some losing their lives.

Dinu said that year by year the government reduced the budget for sports but demanded better performances.

"For example in 1985 the sports budget was 365 million lei (\$40 million), while that for 1990 was set at 130 million lei (\$12 million)."

"The sports ministry was full of incompetents. This place used to be called the elephants' graveyard because this is where they dumped all the stupid bigwigs they couldn't employ anywhere else," Dinu said.

Angelescu, former head of the Romanian Football Federation, told the sports daily Sportul the game was riddled with "the faking of results, threats to referees, players and officials...fudges between the top clubs with powerful backers to get to the top of the league."

Emerich Jenei, the national team coach who guided Steaua Bucharest, the army team, to European Cup triumph in 1986, was sacked several times for standing up to club officials, only to be taken on again.

Dinu, too, suffered at the hands of the ruling elite.

He played 454 First Division games between 1965 and 1983 as a defensive midfielder or sweeper for Dinamo Bucharest and was capped 75 times for Romania.

He won the League championship six times and the Romanian Cup three times with Dinamo and was voted Romania's Football of the Year on three occasions.

But Dinamo were run by the Ministry of the Interior and associated with Ceausescu's notorious secret police.

"I got into trouble right from the very beginning because I always used to cross myself on the field before each match," Dinu said. "In an atheist state like Romania, and especially in the police team, that was almost unforgivable."

Dinamo, who have now reverted to their pre-war name Unirea Tricolor, were favoured by the Ceausescu family.

"There were countless cases of match-rigging. Referees and players were bribed just to produce results that would enhance the prestige of officials and their bosses," Dinu said.

Always an outspoken critic of conditions under the regime, Dinu was frequently in trouble. But his popularity and performances kept him relatively untouched as long as Dinamo were among the top teams in the League.

Once he retired, he was an easier target for retaliation.

"Nominally I was a colonel in the police, but once I stopped playing actively, they began taking their revenge on me," he said.

After acting as an assistant trainer while still playing, Dinu, a lawyer by profession, became Dinamo coach in 1984. He lasted only a year after fighting against interference by unqualified party bosses.

"They fired me and then they did all they could to prevent me from working elsewhere," he said. "They did it in the worst possible way and that was by ruining my reputation."

He said the provincial teams he coached lost countless matches as a result of biased refereeing and bribed players.

"They did that to prove that I was an incompetent trainer and in the end I was left without any job at all," he said.

"There was just no way to fight them except by finally going out into the streets, which we did on December 22," Dinu said.

Indian squad selection challenged

English rebel tour unlikely to go full course

NEW DELHI, Jan 16, (Reuters) — The Indian Cricket board faces court action over its decision to drop three top batsmen from the squad due to begin a two-month tour of New Zealand next week.

A writ challenging the selection of the 16-man squad and claiming it is the weakest in 50 years was filed in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Nirmal Sehgal, president of the little-known Human Rights Foundation, said in his petition: "The appointment of Mohammed Azharuddin as captain and former captain Bishan Bedi as team manager was for considerations other than cricket."

The petition challenged the decision to drop former captains Dilip Vengsarkar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth and all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath for the tour.

It claims the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) took the action to exclude those who last year challenged the bans it imposed on Vengsarkar and five other Test players for taking part in unauthorised matches in North America.

The BCCI eventually lifted the year-long bans on the six after being taken to the

Supreme Court.

The Indian squad is due to leave for New Zealand in two days and begin their first match next Monday against a Presidents XI.

● In London, British anti-apartheid campaigner Peter Hain said yesterday that a tour of South Africa by a rebel English cricket team under captain Mike Gatting was likely to be called off before its end because of opposition protests.

"There will be black consumer boycotts and widespread pre-planned protests against Gatting's team," Hain said in an interview with Britain's Press Association news agency.

South Africa's anti-apartheid mass democratic movement has vowed to disrupt the tour and make life unbearable for the players. The tour runs from January 27 to March 7.

Hain, organiser of protests which stopped a 1970 South African tour of England, said a secret visit he made to South Africa recently to make a television programme had showed him the depth of resentment against the Gatting tour.

He said a law allowing South African companies to offset a large part of sponsorship money against taxes meant that the Pretoria government was directly funding the tour.

"And people are very angry that it is their taxes which are in effect paying for the tour and — as they term it — 'paying for Mike Gatting's pension'."

"But the hassle that the English team will cause the authorities could well mean there comes a time when the government pulls the plug on the tour."



Mohammed Azharuddin



Dilip Vengsarkar

49ers favoured to defeat Broncos



Broncos' coach Dan Reeves holds the trophy which his team has failed to win for him so far.

DAN REEVES, Upon learning his Denver Broncos would meet San Francisco in the Super Bowl, had three words for the 49ers: "We'll show you."

After the 49ers cruised past the Los Angeles Rams 30-3 in Sunday's NFC championship game, oddsmakers installed them as 10- to 11.5 point favourites over the Broncos, who beat the Cleveland Browns 37-21 in the NFC title game.

Why?

Anyone except the rabid Denver fans who will pack New Orleans for the Jan 28 Super Bowl can answer that question. Even Broncos safety Dennis Smith, who phoned his former college teammate Ronnie Lott of the 49ers Sunday night to offer congratulations, expected a double-digit point spread.

"I expected them to be favoured like this the way they're playing," Smith said Monday. "I told Ronnie, 'you guys are so good, it's scary.'"

Other things also are scary for the Broncos:

● Five straight Super Bowl wins by NFC teams, two of them by the 49ers, including last year's 20-16 victory over Cincinnati on Joe Montana's 10-yard scoring pass to John Taylor with 34 seconds left.

A general sense that the top teams in the NFC are superior to

anything the AFC can offer. NFC playoff teams were 16-4 against the AFC during the regular season, and New Orleans, which finished 9-7 and out of the playoffs, has won 12 straight against AFC teams. Also, Denver lost at home to the two NFC playoff teams it faced, the Eagles and Giants.

● The feeling that San Francisco is on one of those unstoppable hot streaks that Super Bowl teams get on — much like the 49ers of '84, the Bears of '85 and the Giants of '86. Even after a 14-2 regular season, the 49ers seem to be at their best now. With their 41-13 victory over Minnesota in their first playoff game, the 49ers have outscored two of the NFL's presumed best by a combined score of 71-16.

● San Francisco's mission to become the first team since the Steelers a decade ago to win two straight Super Bowls and equal Pittsburgh's record four Super Bowl victories.

"If we win this one," running back Roger Craig said Monday, "We go down with the Steelers and Miami and Green Bay as one of the great teams of history."

Even without another Super Bowl victory, the 49ers already are in the same category.

So what does Denver do?

● Count on another great day from John Elway, who threw for

385 yards in the victory over Cleveland. Elway will be constantly compared with Montana, who completed 26-of-30 passes against the Rams and set a post-season record by throwing his 30th and 31st touchdown passes, giving him one more than the Steelers' Terry Bradshaw.

Count on the law of averages. Just as the 49ers can tie the Steelers with four wins in four Super Bowl tries, so the Broncos can tie the Minnesota Vikings in futility with a fourth Super Bowl loss.

● Count on a mastery over the 49ers: four straight regular-season wins, including a 16-13 overtime win at candlestick park last season. The Broncos were the only team Bill Walsh failed to beat in his 10 years as San Francisco coach.

Seifert is taking nothing for granted against a team that was clearly the best in the AFC before losing three of its final four regular-season games.

"Their system has always caused us to be a little on edge," he said. "Their defense has played well against us and now they're playing well against everybody."

On the other, San Francisco seems to be playing better than well.

"We'll try," said Reeves, "to do the best we can."



Formula One tests



Three-time Formula One champion Alain Prost of France inspects his new steering wheel during road and mechanical tests for Ferrari at the Le Castellet race track in southern France on Monday. Right: Belgium's Thierry Boutsen waits to test a new Formula One Williams car at the Kyalami circuit, in South Africa, on Monday. (Reuters wirephotos).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Red Stripe Cup

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 16. (Reuters): Results of Red Stripe Cup cricket matches after the fourth and final day yesterday. In Basseterre, St Kitts: Leeward Islands 245 and 212 for nine declared (Linden Joseph four for 67), Guyana 129 and 141 (Curtley Ambrose six for 29). Leeward Islands won by 187 runs. In Kingston: Barbados 423 and 168 for nine (Robert Haynes five for 28), Jamaica 485 for seven declared (Delroy Morgan 94, Cleveland Davidson 91, J. Dujon 76, Robert Haynes 72). Match drawn.

Chess history

BUDAPEST, Jan 16. (Reuters): Twenty-year-old Zsuzsa Polgar will make chess history next month when she becomes the first woman to compete in a men's World Championship, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported today.

Boxing champion

TOKYO, Jan 16. (AP): World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson arrived in Tokyo this evening to train for a title fight nearly a month away, and said this time he might not jog outdoors because he's too popular here.

Unique plan

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 16. (AP): John McEnroe has a unique plan to help the people of East Germany, and at the same time help tennis players improve their image. McEnroe wants the \$6 million Grand Slam cup held in East Berlin rather than West Germany with most of the record prize money going to assist East Germans.

Decision withdrawn

HAMBURG, West Germany, Jan 16. (Reuters): The West German city of Hamburg has gone back on its decision to withdraw its candidature immediately for the 2000 or 2004 Olympics in support of an historic joint bid by East and West Berlin.

Paris-Dakar rally

DAKAR, Senegal, Jan 16. (AP): Ari Vatanen of Finland led a Peugeot sweep as he won the 12th Paris-Dakar rally for the third time today with the traditional dash on the sand on the Senegalese beach. Edi Orioli of Italy won the motorcycle division for the second time. Vatanen and Swedish teammate Bjorn Waldegard by more than an hour in the final overall standings. Alain Ambrosio of France finished third.

W.German player

DORTMUND, West Germany, Jan 16. (AP): Andreas Moeller, the mid-field soccer star who is expected to be one of the starters on West Germany's World Cup team in Italy this summer, will transfer abroad at the end of the season, officials said yesterday.

RESULTS

RESULTS of the 16th week of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Monday, Jan 15, 1990 is as follows:

- N/S
1. Huneidi & Rita
2. Salman Ali & Sultan Ali
3. Larkis & George
E/W
1. Mrs Jaya Sapre & Shah
2. Drexler & Carsten
3. Javahire & Nazerath

A marathon bridge game will be held at Sheraton Hotel on Friday at 3.00 pm.

The game will be preceded by a condolence meeting in the memory of club's great player late Dr Marcel Zanani.

Sabatini rallies to thrash Frazier

Becker, McEnroe rout opponents



Yannick Noah



John McEnroe

MELBOURNE, Jan 16. (Reuters): Boris Becker, in a hurry to become world number one, and John McEnroe, who at 30 realises time is rapidly running out, expended little effort to race into the second round of the Australian Open today.

The pair each lost just four games, Becker routing Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-1 6-2 6-1 on the centre court where the American number four seed earlier disposed of Frenchman Thierry Tulasne's limp challenge 6-2 6-1 6-1.

Becker, often a slow starter in major tournaments, was delighted with his performance in the night game. "I think it was one of the best first round Grand Slam matches ever for me. For the first point I was really playing very well which is not normal," the number two seed said.

Both players have claimed three Wimbledon single crowns and also won the US Open but have yet to win the Australian title. McEnroe knows 1990 could be his last chance.

"I know I don't have that much time left," said McEnroe, who is bypassing the doubles here to stay fresh. "I still think I'm a long shot to win this tournament."

Becker admits he has not played to his potential at the Australian Open, never passing the quarterfinals.

But victory in Melbourne would give him three successive Grand Slam titles and underline his claim to be the world's best

player rather than Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl.

Becker needed to play at little more than half pace against Haarhuis, who beat McEnroe at the 1989 US Open.

The Dutchman appeared ill at ease, making too many unforced errors as his opponent moved him at will around the court, but Becker said he had also been nervous.

"I was thinking very much about how he beat McEnroe and it made me a little afraid at the beginning," said Becker. "Maybe that's the reason why I played so well."

But in a Grand Slam if you want to win the tournament you cannot play too well too early because you'll play worse by the time the quarterfinal comes round. It's a fine line playing not too good and not bad."

Third seed Stefan Edberg, who saved three set points in the first set before moving past Australia's Johan Anderson, said it was too early to speak of Becker as the next king of men's tennis.

"I see myself as a contender at the ranking it is a battle between Lendl and Becker and me coming a little behind," said Edberg, who reached two Grand Slam finals in 1989. He won 7-6 6-3 6-4 today.

On the second day of the two-week championships only one men's seed, Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany, and one women's, Larissa Savchenko of the Soviet Union, failed to make



Miloslav Mecir (left) and Mats Wilander in action during their Australian Open matches. (Reuters wirephoto)

it through the first round. Number 10 seed Steeb, already tired after his efforts in reaching the New South Wales Open final last week, fell 5-7 6-3 0-6 6-2 6-2 to Finland's Veli Paloheimo while Savchenko, seeded 12, lost out after a titanic struggle to France's Catherine Tanvier 4-6 6-1 12-10.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini took some time to find her range against hard-hitting American Amy Frazier, recovering from 5-3 down in the first set to win 7-5 6-1.

Three men's seeds, Andres Gomez of Ecuador (9), Yannick



Noah of France (12) and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union (11), needed five sets to reach the second round.

Noah, who defeated Steeb in the New South Wales Open final, was also still sore from his exertions and complained he could not function properly in a match that started at 10 am.

"I hate waking up early in the morning and having to work hard, I've never been able to be physically 100 per cent in the morning," he said after beating Yugoslav Goran Prpic, who led 3-0 in the fifth set with a point for 4-0.

Chesnokov, who conducts press conferences with the same languid grace with which Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir plays tennis, agreed he nearly left too late to win his game against Australia's Mark Kratzmann, coming from two sets down to win 3-6 6-7 6-6 6-2.

When the score was 5-4 (in the third set tiebreak) thought "I'm going to Moscow tomorrow." I just closed my eyes and hit the ball as hard as possible, Chesnokov said.

Ramesh Krishnan of India played the David role to perfection today.

SOCCER

Napoli may play without Maradona

NAPOLI, their lead in the Italian First Division down to one point, could be without much-troubled Diego Maradona when they play Cesena in a League match today.

The Argentine World Cup-winning captain, criticised by the press for his poor showing in Napoli's fortunate 2-2 draw at Udinese, injured a knee in Sunday's match.

The draw against Udinese, secured with two late goals, left Napoli one point clear of defending champions Internazionale Milan, who travel to Lecce on Wednesday in resurgent form.

European champions AC Milan, at home to Atalanta, are also breathing down Napoli's neck, three points adrift and with a game in hand.

Given Maradona's seemingly never-ending problems have increased over the past few weeks in the face of his indifferent form and he was given marks of 3.5 out of 10 for his role in the Udinese match by the Naples newspaper Il Mattino.

"People are always saying Napoli won despite Maradona or lost because of Maradona," the Argentine said. "It's clear that if things go on like this I'll go back to Argentina."

Maradona, six years at Napoli, has repeatedly threatened in the last year to quit, though his personal coach Fernando Signorini said he was still keen to honour his contract, which runs until 1993.

Blackouts hold Has Beans

THE re-start of the Mouchel Wednesday Darts League matches last week will be viewed with mixed feelings by the seven men's teams still in the hunt for the 1989-90 League title.

The first three fixtures as laid out in the playing schedule pitted top teams against mid-table opponents, and all three ended the same way—as 3-3 draws. Urged on by captain Don Sefton's 3 high scores, Nobbles took an unattractive 3-2 lead against Chucks, despite having been 0-2 down, before Andy Wilson and Dave Bosworth combined to save Chucks' unbeaten record.

Middle Eastenders may have slipped in recent weeks, but they still remain one of the most entertaining teams to play, this time sharing a 20 high score thriller with Fintastics. John Morris opened up with another 140 and a 2 dart 96 finish, before Fintastics sub Peter Bond shocked the home team with a 2-1 defeat of Martyn Rix, despite losing out in the high scores 4 to 3. Ian Moorhouse hit a 162 in 3 100 plus shots, and Jim Thompson rounded off the singles with a 140 high scores to level the match off at 2-2. One M.M. leg apiece left former long term League leaders M.E.E. now 3 games without a win.

Never having turned out the same team twice, Blackouts finally delivered what had been promised on several occasions previously, against Has Beans. A 140 by skipper Ian Darbyshire led the way and Nobby Burton finally hit his 140, as Has Beans returned from Regga! thankful at having only dropped 1 point in a tough game that Blackouts maybe could have won.

For the other 4 leading teams it was business as usual. Individual honours went to Chris Haseman with 160 and 140 in 5 high scores, and a 17 dart leg thrown in for good measure, as there was no fooling around with four play. Alan Walker and Tony Wake chipped in with 4 and 3 100's respectively. Wake taking their game 2-1 in a very good contest. Wearapeepel struggled with their injury problems and the opposition, but eventually the Dinar Soarers deposit rates were not firm enough to stop a 2-4 defeat. Just to prove they could do it, Nick Harvey and a jubilant Tom Bennett both hit a first 140 for the season.

No Hoppers didn't hold out a lot against Bulls Hitters, although Danny Craft had 3 high scores, but John Watson replied with another 140 to lead his side to a comfortable win. Geoff Clark grabbed 3 more 100's as he helped put Soweto Slingers top of the League as they taught Jabriya Grabbers a thing or two, but even the resident maths teachers couldn't

formulate a winner from the final M.M. leg as Grabbers struck back for a 0.5-5.5 result.

From poor early season form, Zero-Up have climbed into mid table, this week demolishing a lacklustre Fintastics. Alan Thomas did have 4 high scores for the Flyers in their only success, and a happy Neil Britto earned his 140 trophy. Absolutely and Equisers played out a sporting draw in Abu Halifa, whilst Pacifists found Shower of Tossers on a good day to their cost, as the League's most inconsistent team move up to 8th place.

The following is a full summary of Mouchel Men's Wednesday Darts League results for last week:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Nobbles | 3 | Chucks | 3 |
| Middle Eastenders | 3 | Fintastics | 3 |
| Blackouts | 3 | Has Beans | 3 |
| Four Play | 1 | Mugs Away | 1 |
| Dinar Soarers | 2 | Wearapeepel | 2 |
| No Hoppers | 1 | Bulls Hitters | 1 |
| Jabriya Grabbers | 0.5 | Soweto Slingers | 5.5 |
| Absolutely | 3 | Equisers | 3 |
| Pacifists | 1 | Shower of Tossers | 3 |
| Fintastics | 1 | Zero-Up | 5 |

| Standings | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. Soweto Slingers | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 54 | 17 | 22 |
| 2. Has Beans | 12 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 54 | 18 | 21 |
| 3. Mugs Away | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 54 | 20 | 20 |
| 4. Bulls Hitters | 12 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 48 | 34 | 19 |
| 5. Middle Eastenders | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 47 | 25 | 18 |
| 6. Chucks | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 42 | 24 | 18 |
| 7. Wearapeepel | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 45 | 21 | 16 |
| 8. Shower of Tossers | 11 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 35 | 10 |
| 9. Absolutely | 11 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 31 | 41 | 10 |
| 10. Nobbles | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 35 | 9 |
| 11. Zero-Up | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 28 | 38 | 9 |
| 12. Equisers | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 25 | 29 | 6 |
| 13. Fintastics | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 27 | 33 | 8 |
| 14. Blackouts | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 28 | 44 | 8 |
| 15. Pacifists | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 45 | 8 |
| 16. Four Play | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 25 | 29 | 6 |
| 17. Dinar Soarers | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 36 | 6 |
| 18. Jabriya Grabbers | 10 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 15 | 44 | 2 |
| 19. Fintastics | 12 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 18 | 54 | 1 |
| 20. No Hoppers | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 10 | 43 | 0 |

Bjorn Borg sued for \$80m by ex-partner

STOCKHOLM, Jan 16. (Reuters): Former tennis ace Bjorn Borg took on a one-time business partner in an \$80 million lawsuit today—the first of six court battles over his money, his only child and his reputation.

Facing litigation likely to drag throughout 1990, the Swede will need all the cool and concentration which earned him five

straight Wimbledon crowns and an estimated \$100 million fortune before he retired from tennis seven years ago.

Borg, 33, is the defendant in the current case versus Lars Skarke, former friend and business partner who has sued for \$13 million crowns (\$80 million) in damages over the collapse of their joint fashion empire.

Skarke blames Borg for the

crash of the debt-ridden Bjorn Borg design group, closed down last year after Borg refused to accept a rescue plan which would have forced him to relinquish effective control of the group.

"Bjorn Borg cannot be intimidated. He denies all accusations. If anybody caused damage to the company it was Skarke," Borg's lawyer Henning Sjostrom told Stockholm district

court as the case opened.

Borg's private life has repeatedly hit the headlines.

When his first marriage to Romanian tennis player Mariana Simionescu ended in divorce after four years, Borg set up house for a while with model Janette Bjorling, with whom he has joint custody of their three-year-old son, Robin.

Borg later teamed up with flamboyant Italian pop singer Loredana Berté, who last February rushed him to hospital in Milan after an accidental overdose of sleeping pills. They married in September.

Borg goes to court after next week as the plaintiff against 'Z', a Swedish magazine he has sued for \$625,000 over an article alleging he was addicted to cocaine.

In the article ex-girl friend Bjorling claims he introduced her to the drug after they met in 1984. Borg denies the allegation.

In the summer Borg and Bjorling will face each other in a district court which will decide who should be awarded custody of their child.

But before that another lawsuit against 'Z' will go to court.

Borg claims the magazine broke Swedish advertising laws by selling T-shirts adorned with pictures of Simionescu, Bjorling and Berté, with a caption reading 'The Bjorn Borg Collection'—the name of his former fashion house's line of menswear.

There are also lawsuits pending against two Swedish weeklies—one which alleged Borg and Berté had separated, and another which published nude pictures of Berté.



Borg (left) arrives at a district court in Nacka, Stockholm, with his lawyer, Henning Sjostrom. (Reuters wirephoto)

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